

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL REOPENING



WEEKEND OF CELEBRATIONS 7, 8, 9 JUNE

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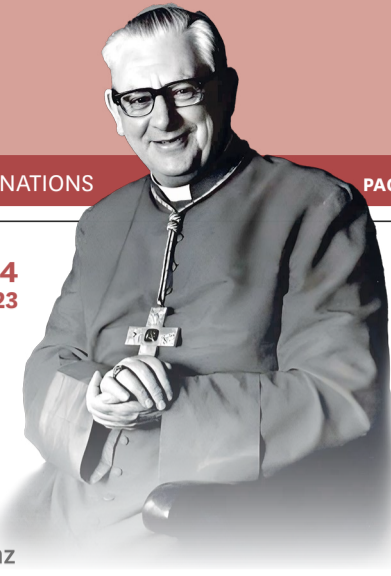
PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - TE WAIRUA TAPU



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DELARGEY AWARDS 2024



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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WelCom

MAY 2024
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FREE

NauMai

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

www.welcom.org.nz

WINNER OF THE 2023 AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION (ACPA) AWARD FOR BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN FOR A PRINTED PUBLICATION



Dancing for joy at St Paul's School 25th Jubilee

Students at St Paul's School in Richmond danced for joy at a family picnic evening after a day of Silver Jubilee celebrations at the school on 8 April.

The celebrations began in the morning with a formal welcome to guests arriving to commemorate the kura's 25th anniversary and the official opening blessing of two new classrooms for the expanding school.

St Paul's School began its journey in 1999, on what was recalled then as 'an empty paddock'. It first opened on 27 January 1999 with 47 first-day students and three classrooms. With its additional new classrooms, today St Paul's has 14 classrooms, and the roll has grown to 341 students.

Archbishop of Wellington, Paul Martin sm, spoke at the jubilee commemorations and following a Jubilee Liturgy, he blessed the two new classrooms.

St Paul's students dance to a favourite school song accompanied by music teacher and composer John Phillips and his band.

Photo: Annette Scullion/WelCom

» A day in the sun, p 20

First gathering of Catholic educators in six years

The National Catholic Education Convention, a large-scale event for Catholic educators from throughout the country, will be hosted in Wellington, 19-21 June, 2024.

The convention will bring together Catholic educators, bishops, priests, school board members and a range of others associated with the Catholic education system.

'The last National Catholic Education Convention was held in 2018 and was a very successful event,' says Dr Kevin Shore, Chief Executive of the NZ Catholic Education Office (NZCEO). The convention normally happens every three years but the pandemic has meant a gap of six years.

'It is exciting to see that almost 600 individuals have registered for the conference, as at mid-April 2024. NZCEO is hoping to have over 700 registrations for this event.'

'Those who attend this conference

can be assured there will be a range of spiritual, social and educational events and opportunities for them to engage with. The national convention is the opportunity to celebrate all things Catholic with a focus on those who serve with an educative focus in the Church.'

The theme of the convention is *Tūhono Whakapono: Together, one faith community*. It will feature a number of international and national key note speakers, including:

- Dr. Sandra Cullen, Associate Professor of Religious Education and Head of the School of Human Development at Dublin City University.
- Dr Joe Paprocki, the National

Consultant for Faith Formation for Loyola Press. Dr Paprocki has been in pastoral ministry for over 40 years and authored over 20 books.

- Manuel Beasley, the Vicar for Māori in the Diocese of Auckland.
- Tim Wilson, the Executive Director of Maxim Institute. Before taking up this role, Tim was an award-winning print, radio and television journalist.

'The convention includes 23 high-quality seminars organised into four strands so there is plenty to stimulate debate and discussion among participants,' says Kevin Shore. 'These strands include Catholic school board governance,



Catholic special character, Religious Education and the wider curriculum and the Church today.'

Catholic schools make up 8.1 per cent of the total schooling provision for New Zealand children. The

Catholic school system educates around 66,000 students.

Registration is open at: cathedconvention.co.nz

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou katoa

Greetings to everyone.

It was a joyous day in the sun for the community and guests of Saint Paul's Catholic School in Richmond, Nelson, as they celebrated their Silver Jubilee on 8 April. The happy faces of St Paul's children on our front page and the celebrations featured on p 20, are a fitting expression of the joy and hope the Season of Easter brings.

In Wellington, the Cathedral Parish community is looking forward with excitement to the reopening in June of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, on Hill St, after six years of closure for its strengthening and refurbishment. As new parish

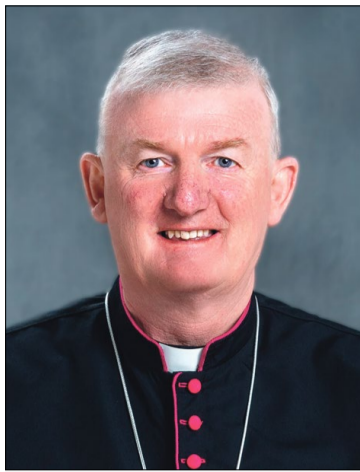
priest Fr Patrick Bridgman says, 'It's an exciting time for the archdiocese and for the parish as we all return home to the Cathedral. It really is looking very beautiful. So many people have been creatively involved in enabling the Cathedral Church to again be fit for worship of God with everyone ready to welcome all who come.' (See p 3).

We wish the Cathedral of Sacred Heart parish community every blessing and success in their reopening celebrations and 'homecoming' next month.

Our June/July of WelCom will be delayed until to mid-June to bring coverage of the Cathedral reopening.

Ngā mihi.

Finitude and the empty tomb



Bishop John Adams
Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese

There are a number of issues that the modern secular world is reluctant to speak about. One of them, it seems to me, is our finitude. Finitude is the acceptance that our length of life here on earth is limited. All of us will one day die, despite this truth one of the great preoccupations in human history has been the quest for immortality. People have looked for centuries at ways to extend our lives beyond their natural end. Still today, billions and billions of dollars are spent looking for ways to lengthen human life beyond its natural end. To some extent this is understandable – none of us wants to die, all of us have a certain fear of death.

During this Easter season I think it's worth asking, has our desire to endlessly extend our earthly pilgrimage gone too far? Have we become so averse to risk that we become timid and joyless? Is the great delight of human adventure being extinguished? Are we becoming so bound up by laws and decrees,

rules and regulations, all designed to protect us, that in fact we are not 'living' in the full sense of the word?

My school board of trustee experience has alerted me to the tremendous amount of paperwork needed for our young people to experience the great outdoors. I fear our children are becoming over protected so that stubbing toes, falling out of trees, crashing bikes, skinning knees, falling in creeks – the life experiences that once moulded us into prudent yet adventurous people – are becoming consigned to history.

The absence of adventure produces a culture that can struggle disproportionately with adversity. Active engagement with physical challenge is being replaced by hours gazing at flat-panel displays. Screens that ask nothing of us other than passive observance. Are we running the risk of raising a generation of children who are discovering, too late at the wheel of a powerful car, about risk and how to handle it?

My own thinking is that as faith in a loving and merciful God declines, so too does an absolute fear of death increase. We begin to spend a disproportionate part of our lives on self-preservation and the urgency and desire for science to conquer the inevitability of death leads to the worship of a different God, the god of scientific progress.

But let's stop and think for a moment. Let's imagine that science may one day find a way to extend human life for say another 20 or 30 years. Or perhaps even sometime in the future death will be able to be warded off indefinitely; we might all live to say 400. How would that look?

Humanity would become extraordinarily old; our young people would become a tiny minority. The passion, capacity for

innovation, and the joy that young people bring would be crowded out by the demands of the aged. Suddenly this quest, this deep desire of us all to avoid death, would not lead to paradise, if anything we would start to experience a type of endless hell. Permanent life in this world is surely not the answer.

The bold Christian answer to finitude is not endless life on earth, it is the empty tomb. Yes, the elixir of life is Jesus, both 'doctor and medicine' as St Thomas Aquinas described him. The true remedy for the despairing thought of an endless journey of life in this world has been found, it's the risen Jesus. Jesus Christ is the answer to human longing. Jesus Christ is the end of the quest for life's meaning and purpose. It is Jesus of Nazareth, risen from the dead, who gives solace to the deepest longings of our hearts.

It seems to me that this is the excitement of Easter morning. Jesus has conquered death. The darkness of perpetual struggle on this planet has been banished. And even though for most of us a certain fear of death remains, it is tempered by our faith in Jesus Christ, the author of life.

Let's take seriously the assurance of Jesus who told us he has come so that we might have life to the full. An overly careful and timid life is not a truly Catholic life. No, to be 'all in' as a Roman Catholic is a great and rare adventure. CS Lewis wrote once that when this life is over, we would only have completed the cover page of the great book of life. He went on to say that: ...at our death we begin chapter one of the 'Great Story' which no one on earth has read; which goes on forever; in which each chapter is better than the one before...

What a beautiful and life-giving thought this is.

June/July WelCom

The next issue of WelCom is a combined single edition for the months of June and July. However, it will be delivered to parishes and schools two weeks later than scheduled. This later delivery is to allow us to cover and present the much-awaited opening weekend of the restored Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, which is taking place over the weekend of Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June (see p3 opposite).

So instead of WelCom being delivered for Sunday 2 June as scheduled, the June/July edition of WelCom will now be delivered for Sunday 16 June.

WelCom

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Sending articles to WelCom

In our mission to communicate about news and events in the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses, WelCom publishes information, stories and photos received from readers.

Contributed articles should be no longer than 300 words unless by arrangement with the editor. Please send as a MS Word document attached to an email or pasted into an email message including your name, address and phone number. Articles may be edited for length or clarity at the editor's discretion.

Photos should be in original format (unedited, uncropped), large file size of at least one megabyte (MB) and attached to your email as separate photo files - JPEG, TIFF, GIF or bitmap (BMP). Please include names for a caption.

Email to: welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz

Deadline for June/July 2024 issue: Monday, 20 May 2024

WelCom is published monthly and is available free at parishes and schools in the two dioceses.

Member of Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA).

As part of the global Catholic Church, WelCom sources a range of news, articles and opinions from local, national and international sources. Views and opinions published are those of the author and don't necessarily reflect the policy or position of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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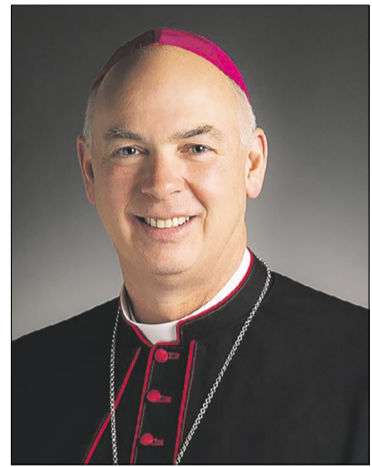


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Cathedral reopening with a weekend of celebrations

Three days of celebrations to mark the long-awaited reopening of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Wellington will take place over the weekend of Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June, 2024.

Archbishop Paul Martin says, 'I know people will be really delighted when they see the work that has been done and for us to be able to come home again to the Mother Church of our archdiocese, which so many are looking forward to.'



Archbishop Paul Martin sm

The cathedral has been closed for a number of years for strengthening and refurbishment. This work is nearing an end, making the cathedral both safe and helping it to be a place of beauty and reverence as well as a place of community and worship.

The reopening celebrations will begin on Friday 7 June with an evening Mass of Thanksgiving at 7.30pm, during which the Cathedra (bishop's chair) will be returned to its place, and the doors of the cathedral will be opened once again.

On Saturday 8 June there will be a morning Mass at 8.30am, followed by a day of Adoration. Groups, parishes and chaplaincies are invited to lead an hour of Adoration during the day. At 5pm there will be an Ecumenical celebration of Evening Prayer.

On Sunday 9 June the Cathedral Parish will celebrate the 10am Mass as a 'homecoming' followed by brunch. Tours of the cathedral will be offered during the Sunday afternoon. The 7pm evening Mass will bring the weekend of celebrations to its close.

Debbie Matheson, Lay Pastoral Leader for the Cathedral Parish, has been part of the cathedral restoration leadership team since the cathedral was closed in 2018 and project work began in 2020. She says the parish has a newfound camaraderie, resilience, and stronger identity. 'I believe these are very tangible blessings of the parish community's "exile" of nearly six years out of the cathedral. Every completed transformation in the cathedral brings added excitement for the return to worshipping and serving our fiercely committed community in new ways.'

Parish priest Fr Patrick Bridgman says, 'It's an exciting time for the archdiocese and for the parish as we all return home to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. It really is looking very beautiful. So many people have been creatively involved in enabling the Cathedral Church to again be fit for worship of God. And what an incredibly active and involved parish is Sacred Heart Thorndon, with everyone ready to welcome all who come!'



Debbie Matheson Lay Pastoral Leader and Fr Patrick Bridgman Parish Priest for the Cathedral Parish. Photo: WelCom

REOPENING WEEKEND OF CELEBRATIONS AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL, HILL ST, WELLINGTON

Friday 7 June

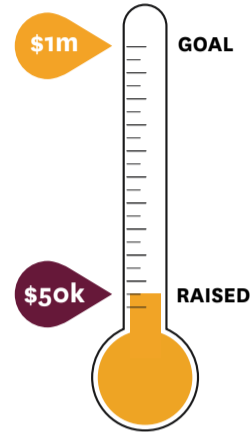
- 7.30pm Mass of Thanksgiving.
- Cathedra (bishop's chair) will be returned to its place.
- Cathedral doors will be opened again.

Saturday 8 June

- 8.30am Morning Mass.
- Day of Adoration follows Mass – groups, parishes and chaplaincies are invited to lead an hour.
- 5pm Ecumenical celebration of Evening Prayer

Sunday 9 June

- 10am Cathedral Parish will celebrate 'homecoming' Mass.
- 11am Brunch follows morning Mass.
- Afternoon – Tours of the cathedral offered.
- 7pm Evening Mass will bring weekend to a close.



Last stage of Cathedral fundraising needs \$950k

Overall, the Cathedral restoration project has cost around \$13m and just under \$1m is needed to be raised to finish the work. For example the chapel and some external work still need to be completed.

As at 31 March 2024, \$50,000 had been donated towards this goal, with a remaining target of \$950,000.

Archbishop Paul says, 'donations towards this amount would be greatly appreciated and are a real contribution to the life of the whole archdiocese.'

You can donate to the Cathedral Restoration Fund by internet banking to: Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish A/c: 02-0506-0138488-025, **particulars** (your surname and initials), **code** (your phone no), **reference** (Reopen). Donate online at: cathedralcampaign.org.nz/donation-form

Human Dignity according to the Church

The Vatican's top doctrinal office – the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith – has published a new document affirming human dignity. The document, entitled *Dignitas in finata* (infinite dignity) was published on 8 April 2024. It addresses a range of contemporary moral, bio-ethical and social issues.

The near 25-page document addresses a wide range of circumstances in which 'particular actions, or failures to act, by individuals or by the State, would contradict the dignity of a person or a whole group of persons.' These include such issues as poverty, war, discrimination against migrants, human trafficking, sexual abuse, violence against women, abortion, surrogacy, euthanasia/assisted suicide, the marginalising of people with disabilities, gender theory, sex change and digital violence.

The document states, 'Every human person possesses an infinite dignity, inalienably grounded in his or her very being, which prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state, or situation the person may ever encounter. This principle, which is fully recognisable even by reason alone, underlies the primacy of the human person and the protection of human rights. In the light of Revelation, the Church resolutely reiterates and confirms the ontological dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God and redeemed in Jesus Christ.'

The text of *Dignitas in finata* is on the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' website at: catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/dignitas-infinata/

» New Vatican document on human dignity p 6.

Everyone invited to get involved with Pope's Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee. The theme is Pilgrims of Hope, giving voice to his desire for the year to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and care for the environment.

Internationally, preparations for Jubilee 2025 are underway. The Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation has developed resources online at www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html. The Dicastery has asked local bishops' conferences to promote these resources and to collaborate in the preparation of local opportunities.

In response, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops have created an informative, indexed webpage

dedicated to Jubilee 2025. Everyone is invited to visit this webpage at catholic.org.nz/about-us/jubilee-year-2025/ to explore the contents and become familiar with what is planned for the Jubilee. The page will be updated regularly.

The bishops' webpage contains background information, links to online resources and links to other websites for wider coverage. Included is advice and guidance for people planning to travel to Italy next year for the pilgrimage, which is part of the Jubilee 2025 year.

During 2024, the focus for the People of God is on prayer and study. In 2025 the focus shifts to the People of God making a Pilgrimage of Hope.

People in each diocese will be invited separately to identify representatives to meet with the Jubilee National Delegate, Catherine Gibbs, to develop local responses to this hope-filled event.

More details about the Jubilee Year will be available when Pope Francis publishes his special Papal Bull about it. The Papal Bull, expected this month, will be published on the NZCBC Jubilee 2025 webpage.

'The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.' – Pope Francis

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St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

Congratulations to our Senior Futsal team, who were crowned national champions during Summer tournament week. This is a special achievement and we as a college have celebrated their success.

Sectare Fidem – Hold firm to the Faith

Christchurch's new cathedral will be built on site of previous one

Christchurch's new Catholic cathedral will be built on Barbadoes St, the site of the previous one, Bishop Michael Gielen announced in a pastoral letter to the Catholic community last month.

Bishop Gielen said the decision was reached after hearing from a range of key advisers and technical experts, as well as the responses to a survey of the wider community.

The survey invited people to consider three possible cathedral locations: Barbadoes St; Armagh St, on land the Diocese of Christchurch owns; or to refurbish and expand St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on Manchester St.

Almost 85 per cent of the 1,604 survey respondents supported the proposal to build the new cathedral at Barbadoes St.

Catholic history dates back more than 160 years on the site. The

former Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament opened in 1905. It was severely damaged in the 2011 earthquake and demolished in 2019.

Bishop Gielen said Catholics in the diocese 'share my desire for a cathedral that glorifies God, that brings our community together, that serves as a source of unity and that enhances worthy liturgical celebration.'

There was no timeline for construction, but Bishop Gielen said he understood the congregation's wish for urgency.

'This will be the first new Catholic cathedral built from scratch in New Zealand for more than 120 years, so it will be a complex undertaking,' he said. 'Our new cathedral will take time, but the wait will be worth it.'

Bishop Gielen would initiate a process to select a name for the new cathedral in the next few weeks.

As with a timeline, a budget for the project is not yet known, but will emerge as master planning continues. Analysis of the three possible locations had found the Barbadoes St site was the most economical. It also offered the greatest capacity for future growth as needed.

Bishop Gielen said the site also made the most financial sense.

'Our analysis said the Barbadoes St site would be the most economical option for our cathedral. This decision supports our goal to be a financially stable diocese.'

Diocesan general manager Simon Thompson said master planning for the Barbadoes St site, which will include the cathedral, a cultural and community centre, offices, a presbytery and ample parking, will begin this year.

Mr Thompson said an ordered



The former Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament was severely damaged in the 2011 earthquake and was later demolished. Photo: David Wetthey/EPA

selloff of land in the central city will soon commence, the proceeds of which will be used to fund the cathedral precinct build and

support other Church initiatives.

More information at: catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/

Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust first Ko Te Hapai O – Executive Director

Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust has appointed David Mullin as its inaugural Ko Te Hapai O – Executive Director.

The Congregation of Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand has set up Whānau Mercy Ministries as a new structure to own, govern and continue to grow its education, health and aged-care and community ministries across New Zealand.

These include five colleges, Mercy Hospital in Dunedin, Mercy Hospice in Auckland, Mercy Villas Upper Hutt and Coolock Cottages Dunedin, and Te Waipuna Puawai, a community services agency in Auckland.

Board Chair Denise Fox rsm described David Mullin as a highly accomplished, thoughtful and effective Catholic leader. 'Dave brings a deep understanding of the Catholic Church in New Zealand, as well as extensive business and management skills and a recognised

ability to work effectively with a wide range of people. It is vitally important our first-ever executive leader is someone who builds trust and confidence with our ministries and our many stakeholders. Dave's calm and respectful manner and his heart for mercy will enable him to do that exceptionally well.'

The dual title for the role underlines the Trust's bi-cultural commitment. 'Ko Te Hapai O comes from a whakatauki (proverb), which reminds us leadership is collective and requires both more visible and less visible contributions,' said Sr Denise. 'Dave's role will be to work with leaders in our ministries to support their success and widen the tent of Mercy in Aotearoa New Zealand in response to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth and in the light of the Gospel and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.'

David has been working with the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference in two key roles – as



David Mullin, inaugural Ko Te Hapai O – Executive Director for Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust.

Photo: Supplied

project director for the Church response to the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care and as manager of the national Catholic insurance scheme. He will commence in his new role full-time from mid-June, based in Wellington.

The Fifth Gospel Project - telling the story

Fr John O'Connor's 'Food For Faith' online forum is collecting and collating for publication stories of personal experience of God.

Fr John is inviting people to contribute a reflection, from a couple of sentences up to 400 words. Please email your reflection to john@fff.org.nz with your name, first, full or anon, as well as a sentence about yourself to help connect to readers.

Visit foodforfaith.org.nz/2024/03/telling-the-story/ for more information about this mission and to read some of the online reflections.

Christchurch-based Fr John O'Connor has, for more than a decade, offered regular written and audio reflections through the foodforfaith.org.nz website to encourage people seeking greater maturity of life through faith lived in the reality of everyday life.

Royal Commission report delayed

The Government has accepted a request to extend the deadline for the final report of the Royal Commission Inquiry into Abuse in Care. The Inquiry must now deliver its final report and recommendations by 26 June 2024. The previous deadline was 28 March 2024.

Te Rōpū Tautoko, representing the Catholic bishops and congregational leaders, is ready to review the Commission's Final Report and consider the recommendations that arise from it. Church leaders are already implementing several initiatives and made public their position in response to themes that have arisen during the Inquiry.

Visit tautoko.catholic.org.nz/roadmap for further information.

New safeguarding review team

The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) has appointed a team of safeguarding reviewers to progress external safeguarding reviews of all Catholic organisations in New Zealand.

The team includes four former Catholic school principals, Jane Hahn, Linda McQuade, Colleen Gleeson and Pamela Arthurs, as well as Siobhan Dilly, former NZCBC Executive Officer, and Jonathan Sankey, Professional Standards Manager with the Marist Brothers.

NOPS undertakes reviews of all New Zealand Catholic dioceses, religious congregations and national organisations or agencies on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference and the Congregational Leaders Conference Aotearoa New Zealand. This involves meeting with about 90 organisations every three years to review their practices, protocols and policies.

Enquires about this work can be directed to safeguarding@nops.org.nz

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To find out more about our services visit www.wellingtonhelp.org.nz or email support@wellingtonhelp.org.nz



The 2024 Funding Round for the Archdiocesan Allocation Committee is now open

- Parish groups, agencies and Church organisations that provide a helping hand by supporting families and social services are now able to apply for the annual Tindall Funding through the Archdiocesan Allocation Committee.
- The priority is to fund Catholic and community organisations who are working in areas identified as priorities by The Tindall Foundation and aligned with the Archdiocese of Wellington's goals.
- We are charged by the Archbishop of Wellington with the funding support of groups committed to social, pastoral and charitable needs in our region. Applications are judged on the basis of need, resource availability and the fulfillment of set criteria.
- Applications are now open and are due by **Friday 2 August 2024**. Application forms and more information can be found here: www.wn.catholic.org.nz or contact Kaisa at Tindall@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04-496-1752.

Social and environmental costs to be paid for 'efficiency'

The coalition government has been passing multiple laws under parliamentary urgency since coming into power late last year. But a lack of public scrutiny and input to processes raises concerns among advocates for society's vulnerable.

Peter Lang Advocacy Analyst for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and **Kelly Ross**, the Archdiocese of Wellington's Vicar for Education, comment respectively on the Fast-track Approvals Bill and the free school lunches programme - Ka Ora, Ka Ako.

Caritas opposes Fast-track Approvals Bill

Peter Lang

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, the Catholic Bishops' social justice agency, has made a written submission strongly opposing the Government's new Fast-track Approvals Bill.

The bill allows large, infrastructure and development projects to skip the usual checks and balances, and to be assessed by an expert panel, then be directly approved by just three ministers, who will have the discretion to overrule the panel's recommendations.

The bill would put the final decisions on such projects in the hands of the Ministers for Infrastructure, Transport, and Regional Development - currently Chris Bishop, Simeon Brown, and Shane Jones.

The bill is aimed at 'speeding up the decision-making process over infrastructure and development projects' considered to have 'significant regional or national benefits', potentially including roading, mining or tunnelling projects. It would establish a separate process for several approvals currently under different legislation, giving government ministers the power to circumvent

key environmental planning and protection processes.

The bill has stirred significant controversy, and many voices within the Catholic community have spoken out against it.

Caritas' position against the bill is emphatic and grounded in Catholic social teaching. We believe it violates the principles of participation, subsidiarity, and stewardship.

Participation - nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou

'The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise one listens to advice.' - Proverbs 12:15

The bill is designed to take away communities' voices on certain projects affecting them. Projects requiring resource consent will be assessed by expert panels, who are banned from undertaking public notification or consultation. Panels will only hear from pre-selected voices (which might be based on a list provided by the project applicant), meaning the most marginalised and vulnerable voices are likely to be excluded, as are those who speak on their behalf. Community groups, especially in rural areas, will at best be given tight timeframes for nominal consultation, and at worst will be



The Fast-track Approvals Bill encourages catastrophic decisions that will hurt communities across New Zealand says Caritas. Image: Wetlands/DOC

completely excluded from decisions affecting their livelihoods.

Subsidiarity - mana whakahaere

'It is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organisations can do.' - Pope Pius XI, Quadragesimo Anno, 1931

Subsidiarity tells us decisions are best made by those most affected by them. This bill will take decision-making power away from communities, local iwi and other experts, and put all the power in the

hands of three ministers.

Although expert panels give recommendations on projects, ministers have the final say, and there is no right to appeal their decisions on merit.

Stewardship - kaitiakitanga

'Technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress. Frequently, in fact, people's quality of life actually diminishes - by the deterioration of the environment, the low quality of food or the depletion of resources -

in the midst of economic growth.' - Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 2015

The bill gives expert panels and ministers a list of priorities to weigh when considering applications. The very first priority is 'significant regional or national benefits', which could be construed to mean just about anything. The bill's priorities strongly emphasise potential economic benefits, but give almost no mention to the social, environmental and economic risks a project might bring.

The bill clearly ignores the environment - the Government doesn't even give its own Minister for the Environment a say. We believe this is recklessly irresponsible - our environment sustains our society and economy and, is a gift from God we are entrusted to hand down to future generations. By blindly pursuing economic growth without an eye to sustaining our environment, the bill encourages catastrophic decisions that will hurt communities across New Zealand.

You can read our full position in our submission on our website at: caritas.org.nz/submissions

More information about the Fast-track Approvals Bill: parliament.nz

Healthy school lunches play crucial role

The Ka Ora, Ka Ako Healthy School Lunches Programme, established in 2019, provides nutritious free lunches to around 235,000 students each school day - about a quarter of all students. But its future is uncertain as the coalition government proposes to review the programme ahead of Budget 2024 in May, and Associate Education Minister and ACT leader David Seymour is looking to cut it by half.

Kelly Ross

School breakfast and lunch programmes provide numerous benefits to schools, students, and their families. In 2019, a report by the Children's Commissioner for New Zealand found approximately 14 per cent of children lived in households experiencing food insecurity. This means a notable portion of children did not consistently have access to three meals a day due to various factors including financial constraints and other socio-economic challenges.

Current data shows us the cost of living for families has steadily

increased over the past five years. Providing school breakfasts and lunches helps alleviate some of the food insecurity students are experiencing.

In the year ended June 2023 Statistics NZ found that: *'1 in 6 children (17.5 per cent) lived in low-income households that had an after-housing-costs income that was less than 50 per cent of the baseline year's median after-housing-costs equivalised disposable household income (measure (b)). 1 in 8 children (12.5 per cent) lived in households experiencing material hardship.'* [tinyurl.com/StatsNZ-Child-Poverty]

Research consistently shows

nutrition plays a significant role in students' learning outcomes and overall wellbeing. Ensuring students have access to balanced meals during the day, contributes to their physical health, cognitive development, and emotional stability, ultimately enhancing their academic success and overall quality of life.

School breakfast-lunch programmes yield significant social returns by addressing food insecurity, reducing health disparities, and promoting educational equity. By ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals, regardless of their socioeconomic background, these programmes contribute to a more equitable and inclusive society.

Catholic Social Teaching is deeply rooted in the principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the common good, advocating for the welfare of all individuals, particularly the marginalised and vulnerable. By supporting initiatives that address poverty and hunger, Catholic schools uphold their mission to serve the common good and foster compassion and solidarity within their communities.

Overall, school breakfast-lunch programmes play a crucial role

in addressing food insecurity, promoting health and wellbeing, and advancing educational equity. They ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their circumstances. Providing these programmes is an investment

in our children's future and the prosperity of society as a whole.

Kelly Ross is Vicar for Education, Archdiocese of Wellington.



The free school lunch programme was introduced in 2019 by the previous government, and currently offers meals to 230,000 students in about 1000 disadvantaged schools. Photo: Nick Monro/ RNZ

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Pope Francis speaks of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as one who "standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith... received the joyful comfort of the resurrection." This is the wonderful consolation of all who follow Jesus Christ.

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New Vatican document on human dignity

Sex change operations, gender theory and surrogate motherhood pose grave threats to human dignity, according to a major new Vatican document released in April.

While the highly anticipated treatise, *Dignitas Infinita: on Human Dignity* deals with the issue of new rights motivated by sex and gender, it reiterates long-held Catholic teaching on a number of social and moral concerns.

The new document seeks to elevate a number of social themes emphasised by Pope Francis during his decade-long papacy – such as poverty, migration and human trafficking – as being equally a part of the full panoply of potential threats to human dignity as bioethical concerns, such as abortion and euthanasia.

Published by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the

Faith, 8 April 2024, the document dedicates the most significant section of its nearly 25-page text to 'grave violations' to human dignity that are particularly relevant in the modern world.

Among the newly identified threats to human dignity are: poverty; war; the travail of migrants; human trafficking; sexual abuse; violence against women; abortion; child surrogacy; euthanasia and assisted suicide; the marginalisation of people with disabilities; gender theory; sex change; and digital violence.

Gender theory, according to the document, risks denying 'the greatest possible difference that exists between living beings: sexual difference.'

The document repeats a frequent warning of Pope Francis against 'ideological colonisation', where



Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, speaks at a news conference to present *Dignitas Infinita (Infinite Dignity), on Human Dignity*. Photo: AP/ Gregorio Borgia

the Pope has sharply criticised western governments for allegedly

imposing their sexual values on the developing world. All efforts

to eliminate sexual differences between men and women must be rejected, says the document.

At the same time, the document also begins with a caveat that all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, must be respected, and 'every sign of unjust discrimination is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression and violence.'

The declaration took five years to be completed, to address the disconnect between social and existential aspects of human dignity.

Dignitas infinita was released to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [10 December 2023] and reaffirm 'the indispensable nature of the dignity of the human person in Christian anthropology.'

Source: *National Catholic Reporter*

Synod: Groups to study controversial issues

Pope Francis has decided some of the most controversial issues raised at the first assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality will be examined by study groups that will work beyond the synod's final assembly in October this year.

The possible revision of guidelines for the training of priests and deacons, the role of women in the Church and their participation in decision-making and community leadership, a possible revision of the way bishops are chosen and a revision of norms for the relationship between bishops and the religious orders working in their dioceses all will be the subject of study groups.

Pope Francis approved the 10 groups and their topics; he asked

the groups, coordinated by different offices of the Roman Curia, to make a preliminary report to the synod's second assembly in October and

to give him a final report on their work by June 2025.

Source: *Vatican News*



St Peter's Basilica, Vatican.

Photo: Simone Salvodi/Unsplash

'Prayer and peace' the best response

The stabbing of Assyrian Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and Fr Isaac Royel is 'shocking and has caused distress to many in the community,' says Sydney Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Fisher op.

A 16-year-old boy stabbed and injured the two men at Christ the Good Shepherd Church in the suburb of Wakely, Sydney, on 15 April. The attacker was arrested, and his victims are expected to survive.

'It does appear to be religiously motivated, but we continue our lines of investigation,' said Mike Burgess, the director general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

In a statement, Archbishop Fisher said houses of prayer have traditionally been places of refuge and sanctuary, 'and so the [live-streaming] video footage of the attack upon a religious leader during a religious service inside a church has been especially confronting.'

Archbishop Fisher said every person in Australia should be able to worship in safety, without fear that they might be subject to acts of violence while gathering in prayer.

'I urge the faithful to not respond to these events with fear, avoiding places of worship because they are worried about further



'Do not fear to worship after Mar Emmanuel attack, but respond with prayer,' Archbishop Anthony Fisher op says. Photo: Giovanni Portelli/The Catholic Weekly

attacks, nor with anger, engaging in acts of reprisal or revenge. The best response to violence and fear is prayer and peace.'

Maronite Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay said the Maronites 'unequivocally denounce violence in all its forms and expresses deep concern over the incidents.'

'We call on everyone to remain calm, refrain from resorting to violence or retaliatory behaviours, and engaging in gossip and speculation,' he said in a statement.

Source: *Crux*

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The retreat is open to all and will be held at Cardinal McKeefry School, 66 Albemarle Road, Wilton, Wellington, over five Sunday afternoons from 1.30pm, finishing at 3.30pm – 28 July, 4, 11, 18, 25 August 2024.

Meeting by Zoom at these times is another option available.

The cost of the retreat is \$55, and the cost of the book if required is \$30. Sponsorship is available if the cost would prevent you from attending.

To register or for further information contact Sarah Dench on 021 0814 4424 or email christianlifecommunitywgt@gmail.com

Catholics must fight euthanasia campaign

The United Kingdom is gripped by the 'aggressive promotion' of doctor-assisted killing, according to a British archbishop who has urged Catholics to write to their local MPs to resist changes to laws prohibiting euthanasia.

Southwark Archbishop John Wilson issued a pastoral letter about a week after Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer announced his support for assisted suicide and promised to bring forward a bill if his party wins the General Election this year. Labour is on course for a landslide victory.

In his letter, Archbishop Wilson asked the Catholics of his diocese, which covers south London and some of the south-east counties of England, to contact their MPs 'to express your opposition to assisted suicide and your desire for the Government to commit to improving palliative care



Archbishop of Southwark, John Wilson, has urged UK Catholics to write to their MPs to ask them to resist any changes to the laws prohibiting assisted suicide and euthanasia.

provision across the UK.

'As Christians, the family teaches us to treat every human life as a gift from God, not a commodity we manipulate and

dominate. Every human life is to be welcome. Every human life is to be cherished,' he wrote.

'The Catholic Church believes and teaches that every life is valuable, regardless of one's physical or mental state or ability. We are called to care for those who are suffering, not to bring about their death.

'We cannot approve of any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Rather, we need to support individuals, families, and those who work in healthcare, so that the fundamental value of life is not eroded.'

Meanwhile in Scotland, Liam McArthur Member of Scottish Parliament has secured the right to introduce a Bill to legalise assisted suicide for terminally ill adults later this year.

Source: Catholic Herald

Priest shot saying Mass

Unknown assailants shot and seriously injured a priest while he was celebrating morning Mass in Myanmar's conflict-stricken northern Kachin state. Two men opened fire on 40-year-old Fr Paul Khwi Shane Aung, parish priest of St Patrick's Church, Mohnyin, in the Myitkyina Diocese, according to Church sources. The motive behind the attack is not yet known. The injured priest was rushed to a hospital in Mohnyin and was later moved to a hospital in Myitkyina, the state capital.



Fr Paul Khwi Shane Aung.

Photo: Myitkyina Diocese

Kiwi bishop becomes an Aussie

One of Australia's newest citizens is the auxiliary bishop of Sydney. Bishop Richard Umbers is a New Zealander, born and bred, but has lived in Australia for the last 33 years. He was made a bishop in 2016. He was granted Australian citizenship in April this year.

New windows for Notre-Dame

New modern-style stained-glass windows are to be created for six of the chapels in Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. The cathedral is undergoing a major restoration after it was ravaged by fire in 2019. The cathedral is to be reopened on 8 December, 2024 but the new glass works will not be installed until 2026. The six new windows are to be figurative and will adorn the 'Pentecost alley' formed by the south aisle.

Catholic charities condemn bill

Church, refugee and human rights groups have described the passing of the UK Government's Rwanda Bill, which will see asylum-seekers sent from the UK to Rwanda, as 'a dark day' and 'cruel'. Parliament passed Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's flagship Rwanda bill after months of 'ping-pong' between the Houses of Parliament.

Justice and Peace Scotland said on social media: 'A terrible day for the upholding of human rights, the respect of international law, and the progression of British politics.' Jesuit Refugee Service UK pledged to keep on campaigning for the UK to uphold its responsibility towards refugees.

Call for lay preachers

Twenty-seven preachers and theologians from North America, Europe and Asia have asked the Church to change Canon Law to allow qualified lay preachers to preach the homily at Mass to 'reflect a synodal Church more fully'. In a proposal sent to the US bishops and the Synod of Synodality in Rome, the theologians urged the Church to expand the instituted ministries of Lector and Catechist so that a more extensive range of qualified lay preachers can preach the Word of God at the Eucharist. The theologians also proposed that a new ministry of Lay Preachers should be instituted to allow the laity to deliver homilies at Mass.

Pope to visit Asia and Oceania

Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Singapore on September 2-13, 2024. His four-nation visit will be one of the longest trips he has undertaken. Indonesia and Singapore have a very small minority of Catholics while 32 per cent of the people in Papua New Guinea are Catholic. Timor-Leste is overwhelmingly Catholic, accounting for around 96 per cent of the population.

Less screen time for seminarians

A new formation programme at United States seminaries will see first-year seminarians have more prayer time and less screen time.

The sixth edition of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Programme of Priestly Formation, which began to be implemented last year in seminaries across the country, mandates a preliminary year for all men first entering the seminary.

Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit will implement a year of preparation for first-year seminarians, when men discerning the priesthood will focus on personal and spiritual growth, and less on academic work.

A key feature of this year will be limited screen and device time and more time dedicated to forming a sense of collegiality

among seminarians, helping them to develop a spiritual life rooted in prayer as they discern the vocation to which God is calling them, said Fr Stephen Pullis, director of graduate pastoral formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

Fr Pullis said that the year 'has fewer classes, a different rhythm of life to help them adjust to growing in their human formation and growing spiritually as well'.

'One of the challenges men coming into the seminary often have is that they are used to a life on devices, social media, email, lots of noise, and that can be a difficult adjustment to listening to the Lord's voice.'

The goal isn't to shun technology, Fr Pullis said, but to place technology and worldly needs in their rightful place.



Photo: Marek Dziekonski/Detroit Catholic

Source: Detroit Catholic

Trevi Fountain coins help the poor

For hundreds of years, visitors have descended on Rome's Trevi Fountain to make a wish, following a ritual coin toss. But the coins the tourists rarely give a second thought to actually provide practical help to people they will never meet.

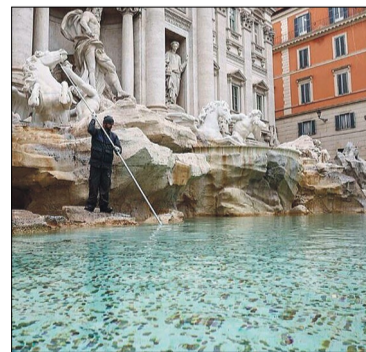
Coins pile up for several days before they are fished out and taken to Caritas. The charity counts out bucketfuls of change which then funds a soup kitchen, a food bank and welfare projects.

In 2022, 1.4 million euros (AU\$2.3m) was gathered, and the city expects to have collected even more during 2023.

The coin extraction itself is a spectacle and involves the use of suction hoses and long brooms by utility workers who balance on the edge of the baroque fountain. The collection happens twice a week.

The Trevi Fountain, completed in 1762, covers one side of Palazzo Poli in central Rome with its statues of Tritons guiding the shell chariot of the god Oceanus, illustrating the theme of the taming of the waters. Wading into its waters today is forbidden and tourists face fines if they do.

Source: ABC News



Daniele Rapiti, a worker at the ACEA utility company, uses a broom to gather coins.

Photo: Reuters

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of May 2024 Pope Francis' intention is:
for the formation of religious and seminarians.

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

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Whanganui's Fr Craig Butler attends pre-Synod gathering of priests in Rome

Whanganui parish priest Fr Craig Butler is representing the Catholic priests of Aotearoa New Zealand at a gathering of 300 priests from around the world at the Vatican as part of the countdown to October's second session of the Synod on Synodality.

Fr Craig was nominated by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference to attend the 'Parish Priests for the Synod: An International Meeting' in Rome from 28 April to 2 May.

The gathering has been described as a 'worldwide meeting of listening, prayer and discernment.'

Fr Craig has been a priest for nearly 30 years in the Diocese of Palmerston North, including 22 years as a parish priest. He is a member of the diocesan College of Consultors, the Council of Priests

and was the Local Administrator for several years until Bishop John Adams was appointed bishop last year. His work has included youth ministry and helping international priests to settle in New Zealand.

The Vatican asked each bishops' conference to provide the gathering with parish priests with 'significant experience in the perspective of a synodal Church', while also ensuring the attendees are from 'a variety of pastoral contexts'.

Before he travelled to Rome Fr Craig said, 'I'm humbled to be asked to go. I'm looking forward to the experience and the chance to meet Pope Francis there, something I never thought I would experience.'

'I wrote to the priests of New Zealand recently saying I've been asked to go to Rome as a parish priest, knowing I couldn't possibly

represent them all, and asking if they would share with me their experiences of the synodal process.'

'While I wasn't hugely involved with the Synod process at the parish level when it began, when I became Local Administrator I became very involved. It's a wonderful way to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to us from people whose voices are not always heard.'

During the five-day meeting, the 300 priests from around the world will participate in roundtable discussions, liturgical celebrations, workshops on pastoral proposals, and dialogue with experts. Its goal is to listen to and value the experience of parish priests, giving them a chance to experience the 'dynamism of synodal work at a universal level'.

The meeting is being held in the



Fr Craig Butler

lead-up to the second session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be convened in Rome in October. The

first session was held last October 2023 and produced a 42-page Synthesis Report, which among other things recommended a 'more active involvement of deacons, priests and bishops in the synodal process,' which led to the priests' gathering.

The priests will have an audience with Pope Francis on 2 May and the meeting will contribute to the drafting of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, the working document for the second session of the synod assembly.

Source: NZCBC

A local parish journey of synodality



Fr Marcus Francis

How is the teaching of Pope Francis on synodality impacting at ground level? So often we hear of what is happening in the Vatican or elsewhere but what is happening in New Zealand?

One example is St Joseph's parish in Dannevirke. Last year it celebrated its 125 Jubilee but what, one may ask of the future? Taking inspiration from Pope Francis, the parish began its own journey of synodality to discern a vision to unite the parish and take it into the future. Underpinning this was also the concept of missionary discipleship, where all parishioners are called to contribute to the mission of the Church.

The first step was to gather the members of the three principal parish committees to experience synodal dialogue. This put into practice the process learnt from the National Priests' Assembly. The prayer, the sharing and the listening resulted in a distillation of the desires and hopes of the participants for the parish. The result was a sense of hope and optimism as we shared our love of the Church and found common ground.

Factions and divisions were not apparent. Rather a sense of how God is calling us all to embrace the future.

The next stage is to widen the process to include the wider parish as we learn better how to listen. Dissent and dissatisfaction are not excluded but speak to how we need to change. They are not part of the end result. Unity in mission and an openness to hear diverse voices emerging and surrounded by prayer and the Holy Spirit seems to be a providential method to deal the polarisation and polemics that are highlighted by some commentators.

Based now in the Catholic Parish of Hastings I will look to initiate synodality here. Meanwhile, I hope that the good work begun in Dannevirke will continue to bear fruit.

Fr Marcus Francis, parish priest, The Catholic Parish of Hastings.

Jubilee and birthday celebrations

Merle Hiscock rmdm

In January this year RNDM sisters enjoyed three noteworthy celebrations in Hawke's Bay: Sr Carmel Cassin, her 70th jubilee and her 90th birthday; and Sr Mary Rose Holderness, her 60th jubilee.

Both Sisters were born in Hawke's Bay, attended Sacred Heart College (SHC), Napier, entered the Novitate of Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Christchurch and, once again, are living in The Bay.

Carmel was professed in 1954 and Mary Rose in 1964, on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Carmel, for almost 30 years, taught in various primary schools and at SHC in Napier. In addition, she was entrusted with hostel and provincial bursar responsibilities. Carmel was a dedicated teacher, much loved and respected by her students.

In 1935 she was called to minister in hospitality at our Generalate in Rome. This was followed by seven years working at Kramer Home for people with disabilities in Canada, ministering cheerfully, generously and with loving compassion among the residents.

On returning home to Napier in 2003, Carmel ministered in pastoral outreach, community service and as archivist at Sacred Heart College.

Carmel is now resident at Willowbank Care Home. So, it was there that family and Sisters



Sr Carmel Cassin recently celebrated her 70th jubilee and her 90th birthday.

gathered to honour with great joy, Carmel's 70 years as a much-loved RNDM. Then two weeks later, gathered again to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Mary Rose was teacher and principal for 23 years at Sacred Heart Colleges in Christchurch, Lower Hutt and Napier and Province Leader for six years. In 1998 she was missioned to France as Co-ordinator of RNDM Mission Solidarity. This was followed by seven years as General Secretary, then back to France and involved in translation work.

Considering her many years in



Sr Mary Rose Holderness recently celebrated her 60th jubilee.

education and leadership, both in New Zealand and overseas, there are numerous people she has richly influenced.

We give thanks for their lives, their 130 years in total of RNDM living and mission, and their daily 'yes' to God's calling. We pray God's loving and gracious blessings on them in the years ahead.



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New lay formation programme aligned to synodality

The Archdiocese of Wellington's Church Mission team is the pastoral support team that seeks to enable intentional missionary discipleship in its parishes through delivering workshops, courses, resources and retreats to support the formation of lay people and ordained. This work stems from the archdiocesan Synod 2017 and is a common theme in the global Synod on Synodality.

The Church Mission team launched a new formation programme earlier this year in

response to the call for the formation of lay people in a spirituality of service and leadership.

'The programme, named "Called & Equipped", is an accessible, one-year course that will form lay people and empower them to serve in their parishes,' says Lucienne Hensel of the Church Mission Team.

'Called & Equipped is based on the premise that ministry and service arise from a life of intentional discipleship,' Lucienne says.

Its four main pillars are:

Formation in Faith and Spirituality; Skills in Pastoral Ministry; Community Building; and Equipping for Mission.

The programme will commence each year in February and run until mid-November. It includes input sessions and workshops on various topics, a mid-year weekend retreat and one-on-one accompaniment.

'A combination of face-to-face and online learning means all our parishes can participate,' says Lucienne.

'Parish leadership teams are looking for individuals in their communities who have shown leadership potential, a desire to serve and are willing to commit to being formed. If you think this could be you, or someone else you know in your parish community, we encourage you to approach your parish leadership team and send us an email or phone us for more information about our new programme.'

'We hope in time, our new

initiative will have an impact on all parishes, as more and more people receive spiritual and pastoral formation and embrace a spirituality of service.'

For more information, contact Lucienne Hensel at Church Mission, Archdiocese of Wellington at email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or ph (04) 496-1715.

Vincentians festival meeting and commissioning

Eddie Dickson

St Vincent de Paul Kapi-Mana region members celebrated with a festival meeting and commissioning ceremony at Our Lady of Kāpiti Church, Paraparaumu on 23 February.

The Kāpiti SVdP Conferences - Plimmerton, Kāpiti, Ōtaki and Levin - gathered for a day of prayer and spiritual reflection, self-development and meeting the needs of the communities we serve.

Workshops enabled personal involvement with a range of issues.

These included our connection and use of agencies structured to help those in need; how to seek support from funding agencies; use of Te Reo and Tikanga in our meetings and work; and our involvement with refugee families.

Our SVdP Spiritual Director Fr Alan Roberts led the Commissioning Mass. He invited new or renewing Vincentians to make their promises and he blessed the 52 Vincentian attendees.

Aroha and koreroero was shared with kai. Paraparaumu parish priest, Fr Raymond Soriano led grace and supported our day.



Blessing of the Vincentians by SVdP Spiritual Director, Fr Alan Roberts.

Photo: Supplied

Working together side by side

The 80th annual Archdiocesan Catholic Women's League Conference, hosted in Naenae by the Lower Hutt Branch, was attended by 32 women over the weekend of 15-16 March.

Led by CWL Chaplain Christine Paterson, the conference began with a welcome and a reflection about the Church and CWL changes and adaptations through the past 80 years.

The AGM and election of new and returning officers affirmed the Archdiocesan President's position will be a shared between Patricia O'Connor and Susan Lloyd.

In her report, Susan Lloyd outlined her attendance at CWLANZ Board monthly Zoom meetings and twice-yearly face-to-face meetings. She spoke enthusiastically about the annual World Day of Prayer in March as an important ecumenical event.

Conference highlights included National President Sylvia Mellish's presentation about the Synodal process. Members were delighted to hear the CWLANZ would contribute to discussions for



Wearing the green for St Patrick's Day at the CWL conference are members (l-r): Christine Paterson, Chaplain; Patricia O'Connor and Susan Lloyd, Co-Presidents, 2024; and Joan Lawn, National Mission Secretary.

Photo: Supplied

October 2024. An immediate follow-up to Sylvia's address was to organise a Café Meeting to submit

a response to the Synodal questions she presented.

National Mission Officer Joan

Lawn spoke about her recent trip to Tonga and the needs of people there especially following the volcanic explosion in 2022.

Guest speaker Joy Cowley spoke about 'The Pros and Cons of Priests Being Able to Marry' and 'Feminine Spirituality'.

Further highlights were the presentation of certificates and badges by Susan and Sylvia, which acknowledged members' service and commitment to CWL; and at the conference dinner when long-time members Kath Cain and Kathi George cut the celebration cake.

At the Conference Mass all deceased members over the past 80 years were remembered, and especially those called to eternal rest during this past year.

The conference ended as it began with a reflection led by Christine Paterson.

Source: Adriann Smith and Christine Paterson



The Chrism Mass in Wellington was held on Wednesday 27 March at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral, Karori. Chrism Masses are celebrated throughout the world during Holy Week each year to bless the sacred oils used to administer sacraments for the coming year.

Photo: Supplied

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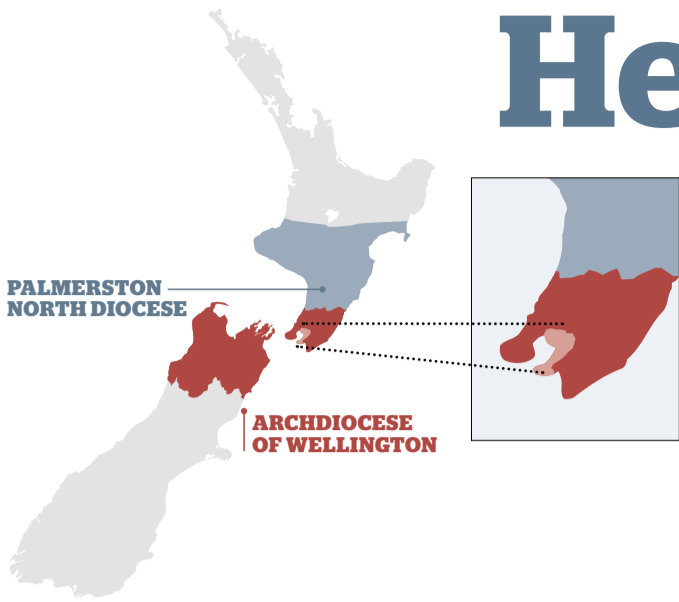
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He Hiko Whakapon



WelCom's Journey of Faith continues this month to visit the Lower Hutt Parish of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu. Formed in 2015, the parish covers four main Lower Hutt suburbs and their constituent areas geographically located across the harbour from Wellington city and surrounded by coastlines and bush tracks. The parish churches are San Antonio, Eastbourne; Sacred Heart, Petone; St Patrick's, Wainuiomata; and Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiwhetu. There are two Catholic colleges - Sacred Heart and St Bernard's in Lower Hutt (featured in WelCom's profile of Te Awakairangi parish, November 2023) and three primary schools - Sacred Heart, Petone; Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiwhetu; and St Claudine Thévenet, Wainuiomata. Parish priest, Fr Marlon Peter Maylon svd works alongside the Stewardship teams, many ministries and spiritual interest groups in this vibrant, multicultural parish.

Photos: Supplied.

BRIEF HISTORY

1840: Two Māori pā already established at Pito-one (Petone) near beach when first European settlers arrived in region making Petone oldest European settlement in Wellington Region.

1890s: Many Italian families settled in Eastbourne supported by fishing around Wellington. Later naming of San Antonio parish after one of Italy's most revered saints speaks to this Italian heritage.

1895: Five-roomed house on acre of land in Britannia St, Petone, purchased for church.

1898: Lower Hutt parish priest, Fr John Lane, decided to build church on site, cost 900 pounds.

1899: Archbishop Redwood blessed and opened church on Britannia St, Petone.

1904: Catholic School opened on Britannia St. Later purchase of two nearby houses for convent for Our Lady of the Missions Sisters.

1904: First Mass celebrated in Eastbourne by Fr Maples, travelled from Petone.

1906: Cottage chapel built, served by Fr A Keogh until 1909.

1909: San Antonio Church built, Eastbourne.

1928: Waiwhetu state school used as Mass centre, Waiwhetu part of Lower Hutt parish.

1929: Our Lady of the Rosary Church Waiwhetu built by parishioner Tom McKillop. Initially doubled as church and school. Used for parish socials, card evenings, dances and concerts to raise funds.

1934: Second Sacred Heart Church opened, Feast of Christ the King.

1936: San Antonio school opened in Eastbourne under Mercy Sisters.

1941: Large house purchased in Waiwhetu, adapted for school.

1951: Our Lady of the Rosary School opened, house converted to convent.

1946: Waiwhetu designated parish in own right, Fr Bernard Keegan parish priest for Waiwhetu and Wainuiomata. Local parishioner drove him around to meet local Catholics. First Mass in Old Town Hall for 12. Various public halls venues for Masses and celebrations for following years.

1951: Ten sections of land in Wainuiomata purchased and cleared by local Catholics.

1953: Hall with sliding door to altar built on Wainuiomata site.

1959: Wainuiomata recognised as own parish by Archbishop Peter McKeefry. Fr Peter McGlynn first parish priest. His and parishioners' Irish heritage made naming of St Patrick's unanimous.

1965: St Claudine Thevenet School, Wainuiomata, opened, run by Sisters of Jesus and Mary.

1981: Our Lady of the Rosary Church refurbished and re-oriented to current layout.

1984: Sacred Heart Church structurally unsafe. Fr John Murphy and army of volunteers led planning work and substantial fundraising.

1988: Sacred Heart School, declared structurally unsafe, rebuilt in 1988.

1990: Fr Michael McCabe joined Sacred Heart Parish, picked up planning work for new church.

1993: Sacred Heart (second church) demolished.

1997: Sacred Heart (third church) designed by architect Nick Bevin, completed using footprint of previous church. Opened again on Feast of Christ the King.

2005: Renovations and extension of San Antonio Church completed.

2015: The Parish of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu formed amalgamating San Antonio, Eastbourne; Sacred Heart, Petone; St Patrick's, Wainuiomata; and Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiwhetu.

Welcome to the Parish of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu

As we all journey together, it is good to reflect on what God wants us to do for our parish communities. God is reaching out to us in mercy, love and compassion. I am delighted with the involvement and participation of all the stewards of the parish. Stewardship Spirituality is a way of life that calls for our response by receiving the gifts of God with gratitude, cultivating our responsibility and sharing them generously in justice with others and returning the gifts with increase to God.

*God Bless,
Fr Marlon Peter Maylon, svd, parish priest*

Our Mission and Focus
Called, Gifted, Sent Forth. We, the people of God, led and inspired by the Holy Spirit, fed by the Word and the Eucharist, strive to share our faith and live our lives daily as disciples of Christ.



Fr Marlon Maylon with parishioners on Pentecost Sunday, St Patrick's Church.

Our parish is richly multicultural, including Māori, Filipino, Samoan, Tongan, Tokelau, Indian, Sri Lankan, Dutch, Polish and several other communities. The Archdiocese of Wellington model of 'Stewardship' is our vision in parish leadership.

Our Parish Pastoral Council is responsible for the 'big picture', working with our parish priest to plan and foster pastoral activities. Committees for building and maintenance and finance oversee these areas.

Stewardship teams in each community oversee the cultural and spiritual aspects of their own community within the Pastoral Plan. Many ministries and services provide vital support and assistance within a prayerful environment. For example, we have the Spirited youth music group, faith education, reach out



Multicultural Day - our parish is richly multicultural.



Sr Annette Young rndm and Fr Marlon Maylon with OCIA candidates and newly received members to the Catholic family in 2021: Elizabeth Denholm, Lueta James Leafa, Joshua Nehemiah Leafa-Paki, Riana Ekueta Leafa-Paki, Kade Tumua Leafa-Paki.

and care activities, altar society, children's liturgy, youth group, seniors' group, prayer groups, Sacramental programme, OCIA, marriage preparation, a Vinnies store and three St Vincent de Paul Society conferences in Waiwhetu, Wainuiomata and Petone.

The Seniors' group attracts up to 100 people for Christmas meals held in July at Days Bay and December in Wainuiomata. The group celebrates Mass each month, the Anointing sacrament regularly and enjoys social outings.

Whole parish Masses are held annually on the Feast of Christ the King. The Liturgy teams in each community combined to prepare last year's whole parish Mass, celebrated at St Patrick's Church Wainuiomata.

Keeping the wheels turning is ably handled by administration assistants Nilda Campbell and Maria Ashkettle.

Recent history

On 1 February 2015 the Parish of the Holy Spirit, Te Wairua Tapu, began a new chapter. It was formed by amalgamating four parishes: San Antonio Eastbourne, Our Lady of the Rosary Waiwhetu, Sacred Heart Petone and St Patrick's Wainuiomata. Archbishop Cardinal John Dew appointed Rev Marlon



Tokelau paddle procession at Mass.

Peter Maylon svd as our first parish priest. Assisting Fr Marlon since then have been Msgr Charles Cooper, who passed away in January this year, Rev Michael Stieller and Rev John Quang Phan svd. Currently Fr Marlon is assisted by Fr Taliauli Akuila svd.

Religious today

RNDM Sisters Annette Young, Trish Boyd and Rosy ZinmarHtwé from Myanmar, are resident in the Britannia St convent. In Petone. Rosy is learning English following others in recent years from Vietnam, Myanmar, Bangladesh. Sr Therese Courderc dolc has led the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) programme in Wainuiomata for over three decades.

The first Mass in the Hutt Valley was celebrated on Christmas Day 1843. The Sisters of Mercy made the arduous journey each day from Hill St, Wellington to teach in the newly established Sacred Heart primary school. In 1907 Archbishop Redwood asked the Mission Sisters to replace them and live next door. However, it was not easy at first. 'The children acted in a very undisciplined manner. The older boys ran out of school as the mood took them.'



The Seniors' group share a Christmas lunch.

no: A Journey of Faith

Petone and Wainuiomata Samoan communities

Isapela Duffy

For four years, our two communities were the first to have combined Samoan Masses within our parish rather than separate communities. We each have three Samoan Masses a year, and we take turns hosting the Masses. In July each year, we come together as one Samoan community and celebrate our combined Mass with our young adults responsible for the readings and the offertory while the adults focus on the singing. After each Mass, we get together for shared food and conversations while our young adults have their bonding time.

When these changes were implemented, the opportunity allowed us to build a strong relationship with each other. We got to know our people better, our young people had the opportunity to be part of the Chaplaincy Youth Group and the Sunday School.

Our dreams and aspirations for our communities and young people



Wainuiomata Samoan youth group performing the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday for St Patrick's community.

are that we continue to serve our Lord in whatever capacity we can fulfil and maintain our current service to our parish community and the Samoan Chaplaincy. Each community meets bimonthly to update everyone on what's going on in the parish community and the chaplaincy. It is also an opportunity to catch up with our families to

make sure everyone is alright and offer support if needed.

Isapela Duffy is Petone Chairperson and Pauli Sapa Sola Wainuiomata Chairperson.

Our Lady of the Rosary

Emily Su'a-Dunn

Our Lady of the Rosary Church community has many active ministry groups including 'Spirited', a youth ministry group. We get together once a month and jam contemporary Christian music and other songs. We have pizza lunch together, then jam some more! It's fun and loud with some great music moments. We have led the Mass at OLR several times, bringing new music for the congregation. All youth, Intermediate school age and older, are welcome to come along to a Spirited session.



Our Lady of the Rosary Spirited music group.

Our Lady of the Rosary has been blessed to have had Fr Michael Stieller serve our parish community for nearly 20 years, providing pastoral care and baptising many of our children, before his retirement.



Students from San Antonio School on the beach at Eastbourne looking across Wellington Harbour. The school was established in the beachside suburb in 1936 under the Mercy Sisters. Due to its falling roll, the school was closed in 2023.

Catholic schools

There are currently three Catholic Primary schools in the Parish of the Holy Spirit – Te Wairua Tapu: Sacred Heart, Petone; Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiwhetu; and St Claudine Thévenet, Wainuiomata.



Sacred Heart Primary School Petone Te Kura o Ngākau Tapu ki Pito-One

Sacred Heart Primary School is a Catholic primary school for girls and boys from Year 1 to Year 8. Teachers and parents are committed to uphold the Special Character of the school within the Parish of the Holy Spirit Te Wairua Tapu. The Special Character is reflected in our school and in our values.

The school's beginnings stem from when in 1891 two Mercy Sisters began to travel by train every Sunday from St Mary's Convent in Guildford Terrace, Wellington, to Petone to teach the local children about God. They met with about 90 children each week in a small hall.

When Sacred Heart Church opened in 1899, the Sisters' Sunday school was taught in the Church.



A school was opened in 1904 and named Sacred Heart School. The Sisters of Mercy were invited to take charge of the school.

On the first day of school, the school building was not quite ready. So for the first two weeks of school, the children were taught outside.

The Sisters of Mercy spent many happy years teaching the children of Sacred Heart School.

Our Lady of the Rosary School, Waiwhetu

Our Lady of the Rosary School, situated on Wainui Rd, Waiwhetu, is a Catholic Integrated school for tamariki from Year 1 to Year 8.

Our school displays gospel values and we have a strong and developing sense of spirituality, faith and belonging. The school programme reflects the special Catholic character

of our school. Religious observances and Religious Education form part of the education with a special character.

The school enjoys a close relationship with the Holy Spirit – Te Wairua Tapu Parish. We attend a school Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary church at least once each term.



St Claudine Thévenet School, Wainuiomata

St Claudine Thévenet is a great school with children who are keen to learn and active and supportive school community.

The school was completed in 1965 and was run by the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. The school is named after Claudine Thévenet, RJM (1774–1837), Marie of

Saint Ignatius, a French Catholic religious sister and the founder of the Religious of Jesus and Mary.

Today the school is a vibrant and engaged learning community, reflecting a wide diversity of cultures and sharing the school's strong Catholic values ground in gospel teachings.



The Kapa Haka group from St Claudine Thevenet School sang at the opening of the New Zealand Catholic Education Convention, June 2018, in Wellington. The waiata was *Tihei Mauri Ora – Let There Be Life!*

Photo: WelCom

Young Catholics

Sacred Heart College Napier to host 2024 O'Shea Shield

Kathy Ryan and Maria Neville-Foster

Running since 1946, the O'Shea Shield is one of New Zealand's oldest intercollegiate competitions. Sacred Heart College Napier has the privilege of hosting the 2024 O'Shea Shield.

The competition will run from Friday 17 May to Saturday 18 May.

O'Shea Shield is an annual event involving young people from the 17 Catholic secondary schools throughout Wellington Archdiocese and Palmerston North Diocese in a variety of speech and drama events over two days.

This year, Sacred Heart College has chosen as the theme: 'Sparks of Hope - Te Ahi Kā', drawn from the writing of Pope Francis. In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us that hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart.

Te Ahi Kā is an ever-glowing fire and, in the context of our Catholic Faith, it is the ever-glowing fire of the Sacred Heart that burns for eternity, fuelled by the ignition of our prayers.

This year we each bring our sparks to fuel Te Ahi Kā o Te Wairua

Tapu – the ever-glowing fire of the Holy Spirit. This is particularly appropriate as the competition takes place during the weekend of Pentecost.

It is in the meeting of hearts and minds through the O'Shea Shield that this message of hope is spread. These sparks of hope, fuelling the fire, will travel back with all the young participants and ripple through the wider Catholic school community.

Our theme also draws from the charism of Sacred Heart College, as an RNDM school.

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions or Les Religieuses de Notre Dame des Missions (RNDM) charism is contemplation, community and mission.

The Visitation is the scripture on RNDM Barbier modelled her missionary work. Mary physically brings Christ into the life of Elizabeth. All of us are called to carry Christ to others. As an RNDM school Sacred Heart College is inspired by Mary, through the Visitation, to go out and ignite the sparks of hope in the lives of others. The logo for O'Shea Shield 2024 is symbolic of the Visitation.

O'Shea Shield 2024 at Sacred



The O'Shea Shield 2024 logo is symbolic of the Visitation.

Heart College, Napier, starts on Thursday, 16 May, at 4pm to gather for a Pōwhiri. The competition runs through Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May. It concludes with a Pentecost Vigil Mass and prizegiving on the Saturday afternoon.

Information about the O'Shea Shield competition for 2024 is available on the Sacred Heart College Napier website: sacredheartnapier.school.nz

Kathy Ryan is O'Shea Shield Coordinator; Maria Neville-Foster is Principal, Sacred Heart College, Napier.



Last year's joint winners of the 2023 O'Shea Shield competition were Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, and St Patrick's College, Silverstream.

Photo: Mark Hurley/SMC

Nominations sought for Delargey Awards 2024

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference sponsor the biannual Delargey Awards for young people and are seeking nominations for 2024. The nominations' closing date is 15 May 2024.

The Delargey Awards recognise significant and outstanding contributions made in the field of Catholic ministry with young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. They are named in honour of the late Cardinal Reginald Delargey (1914–1979).

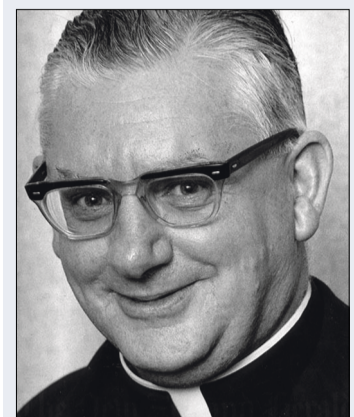
The inaugural Delargey Awards Ceremony took place in 2004. The awards have presented biannually since.

The awards seek to promote Catholic ministry with young people and to recognise the outstanding work being done by so many talented and gifted people.

The awards aim to:

- provide recognition for ministry workers and supporters of ministry with young people in New Zealand;
- educate the community about ministry with young people;
- raise the profile of Catholic ministry with young people in New Zealand; and
- recognise the place of long-term involvement in Catholic ministry with young people.

Each award indicates the component of ministry with young people in which the significant contribution is recognised. These components include advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelisation, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, prayer and worship.



Cardinal Reginald Delargey (1914–1979)

Photo: timaru.govt.nz

Reginald John Delargey was the Catholic Bishop of Auckland, and later Cardinal, Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan of New Zealand. He is well remembered for his youth leadership including Director of the Catholic Youth Movement (CYM) and introducing the work of Young Christian Students (YCS) in Catholic secondary schools.

Nomination process

To nominate a person for an NZCBC Delargey Award please:

- complete a nomination form online: forms.office.com/r/qtSYrTDY6Z
- ask a second person to write a letter of recommendation and email it to: secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz

The nomination is not eligible without the additional letter of recommendation from a second person. Nominations, with letters of recommendation, are due by close of day 15 May 2024.



Students from six schools in the Wellington area visited Parliament on 10 April to urge the government not to make any cuts or changes to the free school lunches programme. It has been proposing to review the programme ahead of Budget 2024.

Students from Bishop Viard College, Porirua College, Naenae College, Taita College, Arakura School, and Ngāti Toa School met with MPs from Labour, the Greens, and Te Pāti Māori to discuss the Ka Ako Ka Ora programme.

Over a nutritious lunch in the Beehive's function room, the students told the MPs the programme had improved attendance, and took burdens off students, parents, and teachers.

'It also saves parents from buying kids' lunch the day before school, because there's a cost-of-living inflation in New Zealand,' Henry Tanuvasa from Bishop Viard College said.

Bishop Viard College principal Chris Theobald said 420 students at his college were provided with meals each school day. 'It motivates our kids to come to school it energises them for the afternoon,' he said.

Chris Theobald said because the lunches were provided in-house, 'there was very, very minimal to zero wastage'.

Source: RNZ

Photo: RNZ

JOIN THE VINNIIES



Young and old, town and country. Vinnies harness the generosity of Aotearoa NZ – whānau, churches, community groups, schools. Get involved and help those who are going through tough times.

You can join up with your local Vinnies Conference or make a donation to:
Society of St Vincent de Paul
02-0528-0208598-027

Please use your name and email address as a reference and we will send you a receipt.



St Patrick's School fundraiser – 800 cans donated to the Vinnies Annual Food Drive in Christchurch.

Rangatahi Katorika

Celebration of cultures for Sacred Heart and St John's Colleges

Sacred Heart College Napier and St John's College Hastings celebrated a melting pot of culture through performance and food at Fiafia: A Night of Cultural Celebrations, on 22 March. More than 500 people attended the event held at St John's College.

Students, with the support of their teachers and whānau, spent the previous month perfecting traditional cultural items from Aotearoa, the Pacific Islands, Philippines, India and Japan.

Sacred Heart College principal Maria Neville-Foster and St John's College principal George Rogers said it was a wonderful evening that showcased the coming together of communities.

Mr Rogers said it built on the

success of last year when both schools came together to celebrate Fiafia. 'Last year we were offsite and so to experience Fiafia here at St John's with Sacred Heart College for the first time is a real privilege. It's great to have so many people come together to enjoy a combination of many hours of work our students have put in.'

Former students Sharese Penitito (Sacred Heart) and Paul Mauga (St John's) MC'd the evening. Paul's brother Patrick Mauga, a Year 13 at St John's, was given the Samoan honour of Manaia, while Sacred Heart's Deputy Head Girl Teuila Apineru was recognised as Taupou.

'Taupou is a representation of who we are as Samoan people,' said Teuila. 'The task of the Taupou

and the Manaia is to perform the Tualuga at the end, which culminates in the most important aspects of our cultural showcase. I was honoured to have that role in our performance.'

St John's College Cultural Leader Oliver Tuanaki said he is proud of his Tongan heritage and relishes in the opportunity to share his culture.

The college's Pasifika Mentor Viliami Lata said it is an awesome opportunity for both communities to mix, mingle, and create relationships.

Sacred Heart teacher Edina McFarland said the evening was about unity and inclusivity. 'It makes the students feel their culture is valued, and they can be true to who they are.'



Sacred Heart College students Teuila Apineru (centre) with Rosie Tu'u, Moelani Leutele Malasia and Leilah Hutchins. Photo: Supplied

Cultural and enterprise learning trip to Mexico

St Peter's College student **Bindi Rolton** has been invited on a trip to Mexico for the 'LatAm Biz: Globalista - Entrepreneurship in Mexico' programme. LatAm Biz: Mexico is a joint programme between the Latin American Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (LatAm CAPE) and Young Enterprise (YES). Bindi wrote this article before she left for Mexico last month.

Bindi Rolton

New Zealand's Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) has partnered with Latin America Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (LatAm CAPE) to give eight New Zealand students the experience of a lifetime: an all-expenses-paid 10-day trip to Mexico!

LatAm CAPE and YES have been running joint programmes to Latin America since 2017. But due to Covid-19, the programme was held in New Zealand during 2020-2023.

I am so grateful to have been chosen out of the 140 students across New Zealand who applied for the 'Latam Biz: Globalista - Entrepreneurship in Mexico' programme, once again being held in Mexico. Students flew out during the term one holidays to attend the programme, 12-22 April.

Over the week, we'll be exploring Mexico City and taking part in business challenges with a team. The team will consist of three students, two from New Zealand and one from Mexico. We will also

be taking language and cultural lessons, engaging in cultural activities, and visiting businesses.

In the application for the trip, I had to send in a video, which discussed why I was applying, what I would contribute to the team, and the relationship between Mexico and New Zealand. I also had to write about a time I was in a challenging or unknown environment, and how I navigated it. I wrote about when I led my Relay For Life team in 2023 and raised \$1,800 for Cancer Society. In my YES class, I'm

starting my own hair oil business called Shammi Haircare, which I developed with my Nani.

I'm very excited to have the opportunity to go on this trip, and I can't wait to learn all there is to know about Mexico, its people and their culture.

Bindi Rolton of St Peter's College Palmerston North has been invited to a 10-day enterprise and cultural learning programme in Mexico.

Photo: Supplied



St Peter's canoe polo teams excel at nationals

History was made for Palmerston North's St Peter's College senior girls' canoe polo team who won a gold medal at the New Zealand Secondary School Canoe Polo Championships. The three-day competition in March was held at Hokowhitu Lagoon (Centennial Lagoon), Palmerston North.

This was the first time on record St Peter's College has come first in the senior girls' division of the competition.

St Peter's entered two teams - a senior girls' team and a senior open division 2 team. Both teams played exceptionally well among tough competition and both came away with a victory in their finals.

The senior girls' team had a challenging tense final against reigning champs, Havelock North High School, for 1st place. With a final score of 5-3, St Peter's won and took home a well-deserved gold medal.

St Peter's open team won their final against Palmerston North



St Peter's College senior girls' canoe polo team won a gold medal at the 2024 New Zealand Secondary School Canoe Polo Championships held in Palmerston North.

Photo: Supplied

Boys High school for 7th place, with a score of 3-0.

The teams thanked their coaches Alyssa Shepard and Carl Massarotto for dedicating their time and effort, and acknowledged teacher

in charge, Mrs van Deventer, for organising and coordinating the event for St Peter's. They also thanked their support crew and everyone else who got involved and supported them.

Annual Vinnies Mass 2024

St Bernard's College Lower Hutt will be hosting this year's annual Wellington Archdiocese young

Vinnies Mass, either the first or second Sunday in August. Details will be confirmed closer to the time.



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Laudato si' Week: 19-26 May 2024

'Seeds of Hope'

For this year's Laudato si' Week and Pentecost, we are invited to gather in community to contemplate and nurture seeds of hope for our 'suffering planet' (*Laudate Deum* 2).

Laudate Deum is an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, published on October 4, 2023 - the 2023 Feast of St Francis Assisi - as a follow-up to Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*.

Laudate Deum is a reminder about the urgency of the *Laudato si'* message and the need for both personal and cultural transformation amidst our ecological and climate crises.

"There are no lasting changes without cultural changes...and there are no cultural changes without personal changes" (LD 70)



The first fruits of hope
(cf. Rom 12:1-2)

The theme for this year's Laudato si' week, 'Seeds of Hope', is inspired by the symbol for Season of Creation 2024, 'first fruits', inviting us to be seeds of hope in our lives and our world, rooted in faith and love.

Ian Munro

A couple of years ago I wrote a reflection, *The Cry of the Earth*, on Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, *Laudato si'*, and the views of other religious leaders. Since then, I've found myself more focused than ever on the climate crisis facing our planet, our common home.

The more I've read, the more I've become aware that the balance inherent in Earth's complex systems is becoming increasingly shaky and any natural rebalancing of Earth's systems is unlikely to be advantageous to human life as we know it. The systems have already lost a certain amount of the stability that has existed since the last ice age - this stable period that gave rise to civilisation as we know it. In the past, collapses of Earth's systems have led to five mass extinctions that we are aware of. Are we headed for a sixth mass extinction? One that includes us?

Pope Francis, too, has become more and more concerned about climate issues and in October last year, he felt compelled to follow up *Laudato si'* with an apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum*¹, as a result of the inadequate response to the climate crisis since 2015.

Laudate Deum is a very readable, comprehensive summary of where we are at, what is coming our way if we fail to adequately respond and what that response might look like. Since it is so readable, I won't spend much time on the detail of the content. However, I will mention his strongly held view that, whatever the effects of climate change, they will be felt first and most dramatically by the most vulnerable people, both here and around the world.

It is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc. [LD 2]

It concerns me that one of the cruellest outcomes will be those who have done the least to cause climate change are likely to be the first and worst hit. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are inextricably linked.

Not of interest to economic powers

While not every individual climate-related disaster can be attributed to climate change, and this fact is used by many to deny the reality of what is happening, there is solid evidence we are experiencing a warming that won't take thousands of years to imperceptibly occur like previous climate variations. It is happening before our very eyes.

Yet, as Francis points out, ... 'this isn't a matter that interests the great economic powers whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time.' [LD 13]



'In the end the purpose of power is to serve. It is useless to cling to an authority that will one day be remembered for its inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so.' - Pope Francis, address to COP 28, Dubai, 2 December 2023.

Photo: AFP/Patricia De Melo Moreira

I also find it worrying that, as global conflicts escalate almost on a monthly basis, world leaders, including our own, are becoming more and more preoccupied with throwing missiles at each other's countries rather than throwing everything possible to avoid an increasingly inevitable climate breakdown. So, not only is it in the interests of fossil fuel producers to limit climate action, it's also in the interests of the armament industry to have war as a prime focus for budget expenditure.

Leadership

United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, holds the view that, as we move from global warming into what he calls the 'era of global boiling', we could still avoid the very worst of climate change but only with dramatic, immediate action. 'Leaders must lead. No more hesitancy, no more excuses, no more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that.'²

These comments echo those Pope Francis made in 2015 about the lack of leadership being a significant problem.³ In his address to last December's COP28 he reminded the leaders present it was their responsibility to craft appropriate concrete and cohesive responses that reflected the nobility and the dignity of their role as leaders.

*In the end the purpose of power is to serve. It is useless to cling to an authority that will one day be remembered for its inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so.'*⁴

Recent actions by the leadership of our new government aren't all that encouraging in this respect. There have been a number taken in their first 100-plus days that could be said to be less than climate-friendly (and others less than low-income friendly, relevant but another story), so let us pray that the government has some more radical, climate-friendly policies up its sleeve. However, the placement of the environment and climate ministers outside of cabinet, and therefore outside the key decision-making process, does not give great confidence that this is the case. Time will tell how that will play out.

Unfortunately, I don't think time is on our side.

Nonetheless, every little bit helps, and avoiding an increase of a tenth of a degree in the global temperature would already suffice to alleviate some suffering for many people. Yet what is important is something less quantitative: the need to realise that there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes. [LD 70]

People power

Therefore, if change is to occur, it is people power that will make it happen.

The demands that rise up from below throughout the world, where activists from very different countries help and support one another, can end up pressuring the sources of power. It is to be hoped that this will happen with respect to the climate crisis. For this reason, I reiterate that "unless citizens control political power - national, regional and municipal - it will not be possible to control damage to the environment". [LD 38]

So here is something to ponder: there are 1.375 billion members of the Roman Catholic Church⁵ and 2.6 billion people in total identifying as Christian.⁶ That is an awful lot of people power that could be mobilised; people of faith who, more than anyone else, should be working tirelessly to protect God's creation.

What is stopping this happening? While there is the obvious economic interest factor and the lack of effective leadership factor, I would hold there is another significant factor also at play that is little talked about - the interests of the 'comfortable classes'. Why change when life is okay? Why make sacrifices beyond a bit of recycling and reusable shopping bags when personally I feel no need to? That, I would argue, is where people power has currently stalled.

So, could homo sapiens become the first species to wilfully manage its own extinction? Possibly, if we fail to bear in mind Pope Francis' comment after the release of *Laudato si'*. He said that, while God always forgives, and we sometimes

forgive, nature never forgives. If you give her a slap, she'll give you one right back.⁷

In his COP28 address, he said that the climate is calling out for us to halt our obsessive drive to produce and possess that has led to our unbridled exploitation of the environment and the illusion of omnipotence that we have. We need to recognise our limits with humility and courage because, 'when human beings claim to take God's place,' as we are warned in the final words of *Laudate Deum*, 'they become their own worst enemies.'



Ian Munro is a member of Our Lady of Hope Parish Tawa-Titahi Bay and a member of the Archdiocese of Wellington's Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission.

Endnotes

- 1 Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 4 October 2023
- 2 Antonio Guterres, UN Press Conference, 27 July 2023
- 3 Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 24 May 2015, 53
- 4 Pope Francis, Address to COP 28, Dubai, 2 December 2023
- 5 Vatican News, 20 October 2023
- 6 Status of Global Christianity 2024, Center for the Study of Global Christianity, gordonconwell.edu
- 7 Pope Francis, Press conference on flight from Sri Lanka to the Philippines, 15 January 2015

Prayer inspired by Psalm 51(50)

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offences against the gift of your Creation.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and cleanse me of my ecological sins.*

*For I acknowledge my offense against you, Creator God, my ecological sins stand now before me:
In my broken relationship with your Earth and my fellow creatures, against You and your divine will have I sinned.*

*Create a clean heart in me, O God, through your Creator Spirit, and renew my Christian vocation to care for your Creation.
Help me hear and see your message of love in Creation, and sustain in me a willing spirit of ecological conversion.
By the grace of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the whole cosmos, Amen.*

Source: *Laudato si'* Movement

Seeing the whole human being

Death happens to us all. It's a healthy part of being on the planet, says **Tony Paine**, Chief Executive of Mary Potter Hospice.

Michael Fitzsimons

The things you need to live well are the same as the things you need to die well, says Tony Paine.

'What do you need to have a good life? You need connection, you need a sense of meaning and purpose, you need to have people in your world you are close to. You need to be physically comfortable. You need some fun. Those are exactly the same things you need at the end of your life, perhaps more so.'

'That's why we say hospice care and palliative care is as much about life and living as it is about a peaceful death. People think the hospice as a building where people go to die. But, strange to say, nothing could be further from the truth. We're as much focused on life as on death.'

Tony has been Chief Executive for two years. Mary Potter Hospice provides specialist palliative care to the people of Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti Coast – a population of 350,000. In any given year, 'about 25 per cent of the people who die in the region come through our service,' says Tony.

The service is increasingly being delivered in the community, supporting around 800 patients a year, predominantly in their own homes. This is backed up by an in-patient unit in Newtown, which provides specialised support, particularly medical and nursing

"Death is part of life and we make that journey go as well as possible."

support to manage symptoms.

The heart of palliative care involves seeing a person in this last stage of their lives as a whole human being, says Tony.

'Almost all of the people who come into our care have had long journeys dealing with some form of cancer or chronic illness that's limiting their life. A long illness and involvement with the health system diminishes your world, not just physically as



Tony Paine, Chief Executive of Mary Potter Hospice.

Photo: Michael Fitzsimons

your body starts to let you down, but in terms of how much you can do and how much control you have over your own life. You quickly become seen as a set of symptoms rather than a human being.

'Our desire is that when you come to us, at this very special and profound and sacred time in your life, we see you as a whole human being, connected to other human beings. So we are concerned with your physical symptoms and the relief of pain as much as we can but

'Some of the volunteers are patient-facing,' says Tony. 'They serve meals, they are companions, they may help you write your biography if that's important to you. They bring flowers. It's all part of seeing you as a whole person.'

Tony says the other key thing that lies at the heart of palliative care is finding out what matters most to the individual and responding to that. For some people it's helping relieve physical pain but it doesn't end there.

'Palliative care is very relational, getting to know you and what's important to you and gives you meaning and joy. What's important to you is what matters most.'

Most of the care that people get as they are dying comes from their family, friends and loved ones. But the hospice still has an important role to walk alongside people and focus on the things that are important to them, whatever they may be.

'It may be an ice-cream on a beach, it may be arranging for them to have time with the kids or grandkids, it may be reconnecting with a marae. It may be just sitting with people so they are not alone.'

Mary Potter Hospice is 60 per cent funded by government and the rest comes from fundraising, donations and the Mary Potter Hospice shops.

Like other parts of the health sector, the palliative care sector is under increasing financial pressure. There is an under-investment by government in palliative care in New Zealand, says Tony.

'Hospice care is delivered by 26 small to medium charities and none of them are saying they are in a good place financially in the face of rising cost pressures.'

Future scenarios are challenging. New Zealand has an ageing population and people are dying older and later in their lives, which will put pressure on the whole health system, including on the need for palliative care.

'A larger cohort of older people presents challenges for our finances, our buildings, our staffing. The same goes for all hospices. The impact is going to be quite profound. That's a problem for New Zealand.'

The Mary Potter Hospice has been going for around 40 years and was established by the Little Company of Mary Sisters. The last of their

Sisters in Wellington, Sr Margaret Lancaster, has just retired from the Board to return to Australia. The Little Company of Mary was founded by Englishwoman Mary Potter to care for the sick and the dying. The order's charism and values still lie at the heart of the way the hospice operates.

'The values they brought to us are in our DNA.'

Those values have partly informed the Hospice's position on assisted dying. It's one of the fundamental tenets of palliative care 'that we seek neither to shorten nor prolong life,' says Tony.

'Death is part of life and we make that journey go as well as possible. But the idea that we can make that journey happen more quickly, or that we can prolong it, is anathema to us.'

Having said that, Tony says that the hospice will support people, whether they choose assisted dying or not. Assisted dying does not happen in the in-patient unit and hospice staff are not actively involved.

'So we're just not part of it, but we will support a person who chooses assisted dying and we will provide their family with bereavement support.'

Tony has worked in the charitable sector all his life and says the values and spirituality of the hospice make it a special place to work.

'One of the joys of working here is we get to talk about values all the time. It's fantastic, a job where you can talk about love. I think everyone here makes a very active choice to be part of the Mary Potter Hospice.'

'It's a beautiful place to work but it's also a challenging place to work.'

Mary Potter Hospice Street Appeal – volunteers are needed to help collect funds around Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti for the Mary Potter Hospice's Street Appeal on 16 and 18 May. Please visit marypotter.org.nz or contact Phillip at street.appeal@marypotter.org.nz to sign up.

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Respecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand, named after the place in the Bay of Islands where it was first signed on 6 February 1840. It is an agreement entered into by representatives of the Crown and of Māori iwi (tribes) and hapū (sub-tribes). The Treaty was not drafted as a constitution or a statute. It was a broad statement of principles upon

which the British officials and Māori chiefs made a political compact or covenant to found a nation state and build a government in New Zealand, to deal with pressing new circumstances.

Among other things, the Treaty reflected Christian biblical values of justice, order, and human equality. Christian missionaries actively promoted the Treaty as a covenant

between the British Crown and Māori: as an agreement that would benefit Māori and lay foundations for peace between settlers and Māori. Like many treaties, the Treaty is an exchange of promises between the parties to it.

Since 1840, there have been Christians who have challenged the British Crown and the Crown in New Zealand (the NZ

Government) about actions that dishonour the Treaty.

In recent decades, many churches have made commitments to honour the Treaty and have spoken publicly about its importance to our nation.

After winning the election in October last year, the coalition government foreshadowed policies to roll back the use of Māori language and Māori-specific public

services, and redefine the impact of the Treaty on the legal system.

On 7 February this year, the ACT Party launched an 'information campaign' in support of its contentious Treaty Principles Bill – pledging to 'restore' the meaning of the Treaty to 'what was actually written and signed in 1840'.

Catholic Congregational Leaders alarmed at Treaty politicking

The Catholic Church's Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand issued the following statement on 3 April 2024.

'Te Tiriti o Waitangi was the foundational document of Aotearoa, with Bishop Pompallier present at the gathering. It had the flavour of a covenant, a sacred agreement. It was between the British Colonial Office, then, and the Government, today, and Māori. Any ongoing

conversations today should involve members from both parties.

'We, the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand [CLCANZ], are alarmed at the rhetoric around curbing Māori language and attempting to re-write the principles of the Treaty.

'This is not a time to remain silent and unmoved. This current coalition government appears to be continuing a litany of broken

promises to Māori, the indigenous peoples of our country.

'We stand in protest at the attitude of the present coalition government in disestablishing the bicultural relationship between Māori and the Crown, and destroying many efforts made over significant years.

'We commit ourselves to learning more about our responsibilities living in a bicultural milieu.'

Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions RNDM

Divine Word Missionaries SVD

Dominican Sisters OP

Franciscan Friars OFM

Little Sisters of the Assumption LSA

Marist Sisters SM

Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy of New Zealand RSM

Sisters of the Good Shepherd RGS

Society of St Columban SSC

Sisters of Compassion DOLC

OPINION

Christians concerned about honouring Te Tiriti

Auckland-based Dr Susan Healy is Pākehā and a lay woman member of the Catholic Dominican family. She has a PhD in Māori Studies from the University of Auckland and is a researcher, writer and presenter on matters relating to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Dr Susan Healy

For many years, on Waitangi Day, the six o'clock TV news showed us dramatic images of protest action. Then, in recent years, everything seemed to quieten down. Now in 2024 with the election of the coalition government, the protest has come to the fore again, not with any 'unseemly' behaviour but with a show of force and intent that should speak to us all.

The exceptional numbers at Waitangi this year followed the extraordinary response to King Tuheitia's royal proclamation to hold a national hui in January. Beyond all expectations, ten thousand people came to the hui, which called for a unified Māori response to coalition policies that could reverse decades of hard-fought justice for Māori and the work done to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

I believe these events signal a critical moment in our country's history and we are challenged to respond to it. For those of us who are not Māori, various reactions are open to us: we can treat the issues with contempt or mild indifference; we can judge these are matters for Māori and not the rest of us; or we can sense there is something that goes to the heart of our integrity as a nation.

Importantly, we who are Catholic and Christian need to consider what our faith asks of us at this time.

In recent decades, our New Zealand Catholic Bishops have spoken consistently on these matters. Their fullest pronouncement was 'A Statement on the Treaty of Waitangi in Today's Perspective.' Written in 1995, the



As the sun rose, thousands attended the dawn service at Te Whare Runanga on the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Waitangi Day, 6 February 2024.

Photo: Newshub

statement is still very relevant. Addressing New Zealanders in general, the bishops said:

Treaty of Waitangi issues are not about party politics. They are about honouring with goodwill the covenant entered into by the Crown and Māori, on which this nation is founded. They are about the right of the first occupants to land, and a social and political organisation which would allow them to preserve their cultural identity. They are about a people still searching for the sovereignty guaranteed them 150 years ago.

"A person is a person with tapu and mana only by reason of relationships with Atua (God), tangata (people) and whenua (land)." – Rev Dr Henare Tate, thesis on Māori theology.

Let's consider the implications of these words. The Treaty is a covenant between the Crown (effectively, the New Zealand Government) and Māori. A covenant involves a bond of respect and mutual accountability; it requires that both parties work things out together. As the bishops later say, 'The indigenous people of our country, the Māori, deserve better than unilateral arrangements and imposed settlement.' The bishops were referring to the narrow and, in many ways, demeaning framework

the Government had set for making reparations to Māori communities for the wrongs done to them by the Crown, a framework put in place with no input from Māori.

The bishops' urging that there be genuine partnership between the Crown and Māori reflects papal teaching, which emphasises the importance of *dialogue* between states and indigenous peoples – a dialogue that shows commitment to healing, justice, and peace, while acknowledging historical wrongs and seeking a path toward

reconciliation. In his encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis wrote, 'It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others but should be the principal dialogue partners.'¹

Dialogue, of course, needs to be more than a pious idea. It must ensure indigenous communities are heard and part of decision making. We are closing our eyes to the colonial history of our country

if we do not recognise that for too long one of the greatest wrongs to Māori *communities* has been their exclusion from places where official decisions are made. More recent moves like the establishment of Māori seats on local governing bodies have provided crucial steps towards the dialogue, healing and reconciliation that the Popes talk about. What is more, Māori representation on councils and boards has generally led to greater care for the natural environment, a matter of vital importance for us all. Sadly, this representation is now under threat.

Of the policies put forward by parties to the coalition government, probably the most concerning is ACT's Treaty Principles Bill. While we haven't seen the final version of this Bill, we have a fair idea of its content. The leaked version, which aligns with David Seymour's rhetoric, interprets the Second Article of the treaty as: 'The New Zealand Government will honour all New Zealanders in the chieftainship of their land and all their property.' This is a travesty of the Treaty's Second Article which guarantees that hapū (tribes), their rangatira (leaders) and all Māori

will keep their full authority (te tino rangatiratanga) over their lands, settlements and all they value (taonga). In ACT's proposed bill, the communal Treaty rights of the indigenous people of our country are made to disappear and are replaced by a pseudo-guarantee of individual property rights – a guarantee which is already solidly lodged in law.

ACT's proposal is obviously of deep concern to Māori and should be of concern to us as Catholics. For a start, it completely nullifies seeing the Treaty as the covenant between the Crown and Māori 'on which this nation is founded'. Secondly, the bill is rooted in an individualist philosophy rather than a concern for community and a relationships-based way of viewing the world. This individualism stands in contradiction to the traditional values of the Māori world. As Fr Henare Tate explained in his thesis on Māori theology, a person is a person with tapu and mana 'only by reason of relationships with Atua (God), tangata (people) and whenua (land)'.² Likewise, Christianity is based on the commandment of love; Catholic social teaching promotes concern for the common good; and, today, most Christian denominations encourage us to be aware of the interconnectedness of all things and to care for the natural world.

In face of the present challenges to the Treaty relationship, the bishops have given us a powerful reminder:

*In the Treaty of Waitangi, we find the moral basis for our presence in Aotearoa New Zealand and a vision that sets this country apart.*³ x

¹ Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, s. 146.

² Rev Dr Henare Arekatera Tate, *Towards Some Foundations of a Systematic Māori Theology*, s.2.5.3; published as *He Puna Iti i te Ao Mārama* (2012).

³ NZ Catholic Bishops, *A Statement on the Treaty of Waitangi in Today's Perspective*, 1995, words addressed to those who are not Māori.

Thanks for the space

A reflection on life and the space that holds it

Fr James Lyons

Cemeteries used to be called churchyards, because that's what they were – a place near the church for deceased parishioners. Like St Paul's image of the body, the burial ground is an 'earthenware vessel' holding the treasured remains of people whose lives have been part of the life of the parish. It's hallowed ground, a sacred space.

I was prompted to ponder more about this after seeing a gravestone inscription that read, THANKS FOR THE SPACE. What was it saying?

Thanks for the space *here*, this grave? Thanks for the space my life has filled? Thanks for the space – the time – in which I lived? Thanks for the space around me in which other people lived and walked and came close to me?

Probably all of this, and much more.

Thanks for the space. An acknowledgement that this space has been gifted. Thanks for the space that holds world and the universe, the sun and the stars and the air and the water and everything that contributes to and is necessary for my life.

Thanks for the space that announces my uniqueness; the space that no one else can fill. The space that holds my presence: this is me in this space, so different from you, yet linked to you – for my space can only be if I allow you to have *your* space. *Thanks for the space that enables me to respect myself as a person and to respect you.* Knowing my space brings me to know there are other spaces, just as good, just as important, just as necessary – for without them my space would cease to exist.

Thanks for the space. That can also be gratitude for the space you've been given to get to know yourself – and to make mistakes – and to learn – and to grow. By not interfering, people give you space to journey at your own pace. We speak of giving people 'breathing space', not crowding them or placing too many demands on them. The space, like a holiday or retreat, can be a time away from the normal routine, a pause in a busy schedule, a flash of insight, or a momentary lull in the rush of noise that fills your every day.

The gravestone message told of a woman's gratefulness for what she had received, and of course we can apply that to our own situation. But our faith tradition offers another direction for thanks. We can thank God for us – for the space in which WE live; for the way we've been enriched, blessed and honoured by God. That's a dimension of gratefulness not to be overlooked: to say THANKS FOR EACH OTHER'S SPACE as well as our own.

Thanks for the space where you are. For the model your life is for mine. For the gifts you give to love, to compassion, to the strength of the human spirit, and to the wonder of our God through the divine image you portray.

Christians can be especially thankful for one particular sacred space – the empty tomb! The space that tells us Jesus is not there – he is risen! The Easter Vigil celebrates this space with the greatest joy, the Exultet proclaiming Christ Jesus *coming back from death's domain, shedding his peaceful light on humanity.*

The prophet Isaiah has a word for us: 'O God, you are the source of our being; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.' Earthenware vessels – that's us. Given space to stand and a time to be seen; holding the treasure that is life against the time we'll be asked to pour it out, in loving surrender to the One who captures all space in an everlasting embrace.

James Lyons is a priest of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

"Thanks for the space that holds world and the universe, the sun and the stars and the air and the water and everything that contributes to and is necessary for my life."



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For the full programme (see p19) and to register your interest, contact: Tony Fortune tonyfortune52@xtra.co.nz ph (03) 732 8639; or Bernadette Snowden berna.cat.snowden@xtra.co.nz ph (03) 732 8915; or Margaret Prince margaret@reefton.nz ph 027 6311093 by **8 May**.



Gospel Reading: Sunday 5 May 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - JOHN 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 9 'As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

11 'I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy might be complete.

12 This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have

made know to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

16 It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

17 This I command you: love one another.'

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Tom Gibson

The theme of this reflection is firstly about the fact that the greatest love a person can have for another is to risk, give up or lay down their lives for that person. Secondly, Christ has commanded us to love each other as he has loved us. It's a difficult reflection to write because giving up our lives for another person is a huge call, and Christ states this is the greatest commandment there is. It comes directly from our Lord, and it was also his instruction to his disciples; 'if you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love'.

'Command' is a strong word. It may be difficult to think we are commanded by our Lord who is so caring and loving towards us. Perhaps we can think of it a bit like a doctor's prescription, which is like a commandment we have to take, as whatever medication is prescribed, is the best thing for us. So perhaps we can understand Christ's

commandments a bit like a doctor's prescription. If we know what's good for us, we will do what it says.

I always thought to lay down your life for your friend was like a military instruction that our soldiers had to obey at war. But here, it comes directly from our Lord.

We did not choose Jesus in our lives; no, he has chosen us, as he has chosen his disciples. He was the first friend to lay down his life for another, because he died on the cross for us.

With this in mind, it is helpful to appreciate his commission. The commission he gives us as Catholics is to go out and bear fruit. It is insufficient just to go to church and think we are doing God's will. No, his commandment is more than that; we need to go out and live our Catholic lives, serving God and serving our fellow men and women, to the extent that might need us to put another person's life first, above our own.

But let's not forget that Christ did that for us first.

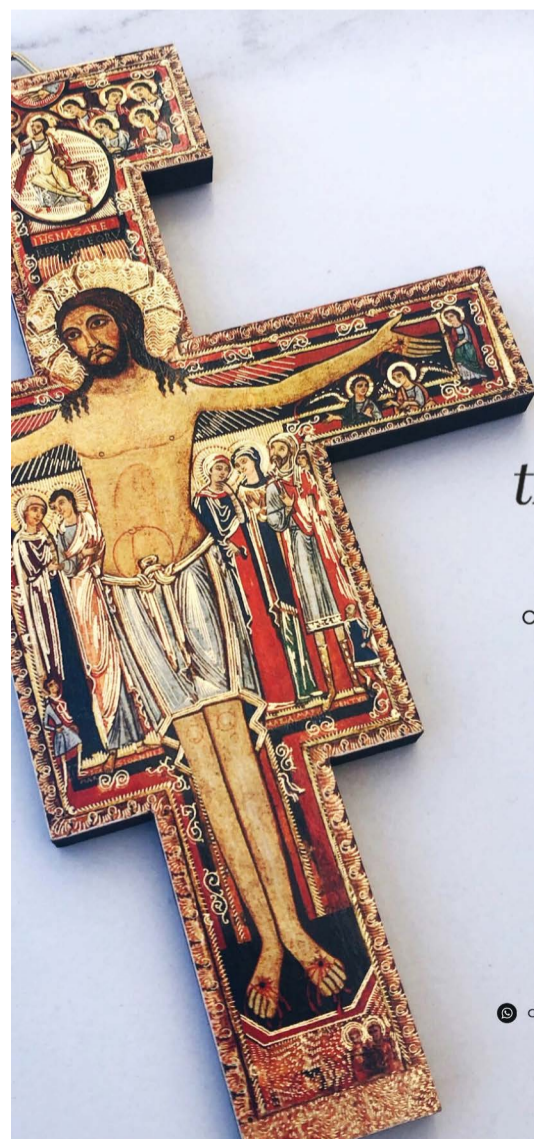
May the Month of Mary

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary came about in the 13th century. The reason is that this month in the Northern Hemisphere is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our saviour Jesus Christ.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen.



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DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

To list events free, email welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz with event name, date, time, location and contact details.

Sunday 5 May 2024

Seek: Explore and Discern – archdiocesan Vocations and Young Church event, 12.30pm, St Anne’s Newtown. Contact youth@wn.catholic.org.nz for more information.

Sunday 9 and Sunday 16 June

Love is a Decision – archdiocesan marriage preparation course for engaged couples, 10am–4pm. Go online to wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries to register.

Wednesday 8, 15, 22, 29 May, 9, 12, 19, 26 June

Game On – Men’s Parenting Programme, over eight Wednesdays, 6.30pm–8.30pm. A Catholic Social Services programme facilitated by Ian and Francis. A look at what children need, a Dads’ role, communication, discipline, boundary setting, what makes a great family and more. Programme includes kai, tea, coffee and conversation! A koha towards costs appreciated. Contact CSS administrator to register at email reception@wn.catholic.org.nz or ph (04) 385-8642 or txt 027 4055 469.

Saturday 11 May

Te Hao Nui – Launch Out Thanksgiving Mass and Graduation for candidate Telesia Alaimoana, 10am, St Pope Pius Church, Titahi Bay. All welcome. Launch Out is the archdiocesan lay leadership formation programme of 7 to 8 years for candidates.

Sunday 12 May

Ascension Sunday – World Communications Day.

Sunday 12 - Sunday 19 May

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Thursday 16, Saturday 18 May

Mary Potter Hospice Street Appeal – volunteers are needed to help collect funds around Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti for the Mary Potter Hospice’s Steet Appeal. Visit marypotter.org.nz or contact Phillip at street.appeal@marypotter.org.nz to sign up.

Friday 17, Saturday 18, Sunday 19 May

Former Sacred Heart Parish of Reefton 150-year celebrations.

Sunday 19 May

Pentecost Sunday – Solemnity.

Monday 20 May

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church – Memorial.

Sunday 26 May

Trinity Sunday – Solemnity.

Friday 31 May

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Memorial.

Wednesday 26 June

‘Liturgy of the Word’ – Sunday Eucharist workshop series presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, Archdiocese Liturgy Adviser, 7–9pm, Sacred Heart Church, Petone.

Saturday 17 August

‘Liturgy of the Eucharist’ – Sunday Eucharist workshop series presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, Archdiocese Liturgy, 10am–12pm, St Joseph’s Church, Mt Victoria, Wellington.

Wednesday 16 October

‘It’s Impact in our lives’ – Sunday Eucharist workshop series presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, Archdiocese Liturgy Adviser, 7–9pm, St Teresa’s, Plimmerton.

15, 16, 17 November

Sacred Heart and Redwood College Nelson reunion for past pupils and staff. Register at: redwoodsacredheart.com or contact Bernadette King-Turner at: SHReunion2024@gmail.com for information.

Palmerston North Young Catholics – 18-35-year-olds invited after each Sunday 6pm Mass, to the Cathedral lounge at 7.15pm, to meet like-minded people and form new friendships.

Wellington Young Catholics Join St Mary of the Angels Young Adults for community of faith, friendship, and fun! Email smayacs@gmail.com for information.

Prayer: Young Adults Mass, last Sunday of month, 5pm.

Eucharistic Adoration: second Friday of month, after 5.15pm Mass.

Praise & Worship Nights: church crypt, usually third Friday of month.

Formation: Theology on Tap sessions, speakers, dates, times online.

Fellowship: social events.

Sacred Heart Parish Reefton: 150 Years

Parishioners, past-parishioners and friends of the former Sacred Heart Parish of Reefton are invited to our 150-year celebrations over the weekend of 17, 18 and 19 May.

PROGRAMME

Friday 17

6pm: Meet and Greet with eats at Presbytery or Dawsons.

Saturday 18

10am: Visit Sacred Heart Church for an insight into the parish story through 150 years. Visit Sacred Heart School, share stories of the old school and the current one.

Midday lunch: Broadway Tearooms or Dawsons.

2pm: Visit Reefton Cemetery, short stories of early settlers and visit relatives on the grounds.

5pm: Celebration Mass.

6pm: Dinner at Dawsons.

Sunday 19

10am: Morning tea at Broadway Tearooms and goodbyes.

NB: Meals at the Tearooms and Dawsons at own expense.

Please bring photographs of the churches in Reefton, Ikamatua, Murchison, Inangahua, Waituta, and Cronadun, as well as of the old assembly hall, convent, old school, presbytery, people, gatherings etc. Register your interest by NOW with:

Tony Fortune: tonyfortune52@xtra.co.nz ph (03) 7328-639; or Bernadette Snowden: berna.cat.snowden@xtra.co.nz ph (03) 732-8915; or Margaret Prince: margaret@reefton.nz ph 027 6311093.

Wellington Abrahamic Council seminar

The Wellington Abrahamic Council of Jews, Christians, and Muslims is hosting a public seminar asking the question: ‘Why do bad things happen to good people?’


Speakers are Paul Morris (Jewish), Neil Vaney (Christian), Tahir Nawaz (Muslim).

The event is on Tuesday 7 May, 7pm, at St Joseph’s Church Mt Victoria. All are welcome. Tickets are free or by koha but are mandatory for entry. Please get your ticket at: events.humanitix.com/why-do-bad-things-happen-to-good-people

This question for the discussion, and the answers given in the Abrahamic religious traditions, have framed what is often referred to the problem of evil, or theodicy, and of the meaning of justice. These religious and spiritual responses have generated profound reflections concerning uncertainties of religious experience and human existence. In modern times, for some, the answer to this question has been the gateway out of religious belief, for others it has served to reinforce belief and religious commitment. It remains one of the significant questions facing us as human beings.

Event note: Due to recent global events, there will be security at the door, including bag checks and handheld metal detectors.

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MEN’S MEETINGS
Joshua aims to encourage, support and strengthen men in their Christian calling. Come and join us.

Wellington Loaves & Fishes Hall, Hill Street Thursday 23 May, 7:30pm <i>NB This meeting moved from 3rd to 4th Thursday</i> Contact: David 027 447 7280	Palmerston North St Mary’s Church foyer, Ruahine Street Tuesday 21 May, 7:00pm Contact: John 027 688 7750
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‘As for me and my house we will serve the Lord’ - *Joshua 24:15*
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A day in the sun

Saint Paul's School Silver Jubilee

Annette Scullion

Staff, students, families, Board of Trustee members, Archbishop Paul Martin sm, tangata whenua, MP for Nelson Rachael Boyack and Nelson Mayor Nick Smith, as well as guests from nearby Garin College and others from further afield, gathered at Saint Paul's School in Richmond on 5 April for a day of celebrations, thanks and festivities.

They came to commemorate Saint Paul's Silver Jubilee and journey as well as the official unveiling and blessing of the school's two new classrooms and playground area. One of the new classes is designated for intermediate-age students.

Guests arriving for the jubilee celebrations in the morning were greeted with a Mihi Whakatau by Andrew Dell and waiata from the students as they joined the school community seated outside in the sunshine.

Principal Maureen Phillips and invited dignitaries – including Board Chair and MC Lester Binns, Archbishop Paul Martin, Mayor Nick Smith – expressed the significance of the day in their addresses.

Marley Dallimore and Jonty Powick welcomed everyone to the Liturgy of celebration for the jubilee. Archbishop Paul led the opening prayer and a blessing prayer. Student Elvie Milmine gave a Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (2:19-22) and Saskia Barney, William Sladen, Li Seloti-Ese and Lila Bloomer led the Prayers of Intercession. Archbishop Paul concluded the Liturgy concluded with prayers.

Commemorative plaques were unveiled and Archbishop Paul proceeded to bless the new buildings and the rededicated library. The morning proceedings concluded with the school song, karakia, kai and hospitality in the new Ōhanga multi-purpose space.

Guests were invited to view the new buildings and the history of Saint Paul's School depicted in artworks and photographic displays in the Ōhanga. Several guests returned later in the afternoon to join students and their families for an evening picnic, with entertainment from music teacher John Phillips and his band, and the blessing and opening of the new playground area.



1. Guests assemble in the Ōhanga to be led onto the welcoming site outside. 2. 'Catholic schools exist to know, love and serve Jesus Christ in our community', Archbishop Paul Martin said. 3. St Paul's students sing a waiata accompanied by music teacher John Phillips. 4. Archbishop Paul blesses the new buildings and spaces. 5. Assembled dignitaries and guests. 6. Families enjoy the evening picnic on the school lawn. 7. Garin College Principal John Maguire and Saint Paul's Principal Maureen Phillips – the two Richmond schools share a close bond. 8. Music teacher John Phillips and his band provide entertainment at the family evening picnic. 9. Saint Paul's two most senior and junior pupils cut the Silver Jubilee celebration cake. 10. Children enjoy their new play area.

Photos: Annette Scullion/WelCom



The journey...

'St Paul's journey began nearly three decades ago when Cardinal Tom Williams envisioned a school in Richmond. The pioneers who spearheaded his vision laid the foundation for what we celebrate today,' said Board Chair Lester Binns in his address.

'St Paul's welcomed its first students on 27 January 1999 with 47 first-day students and three classrooms. Its distinctive design with vibrant colours and its open teaching spaces were groundbreaking thanks to the hard work and vision of architect Les Clapcott,' Mr Binns said.

'With its new classrooms, St Paul's now has 14 classrooms and has grown from 47 students in 1999 to 341 and is well on its way to its new maximum role of 371 students.'

Mr Binns acknowledged current architect Gerard McDonnell and builders Robert Powick, Glen Carmody and their teams. He also thanked the teachers, support staff, board members, parents, students and the fundraising team. 'Your collective efforts have made St Paul's the amazing school it is today.'

Archbishop Paul Martin said, 'Catholic schools exist to know, love and serve Jesus Christ in our

community'. To the students he said, 'One day you will be parents and your children will come here just as you do, to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. Thank you all for being here today and may God bless you.'

Mrs Phillips said the jubilee was an opportunity to give thanks for the vision of those who took up the challenge of establishing the school, those who have contributed to its success over the past 25 years and to pray for those who will take on the challenge of progressing in the future.

Mrs Phillips thanked Archbishop Paul, the Chair and Board members, the four previous principals, neighbouring Salisbury School, architects Gerard McDonnell and Les Clapcott, and Mayor Nick Smith, for their ongoing support and contributions in bringing Catholic education to the Richmond community.

'We are incredibly proud of our kura. One of the goals of Catholic Education in New Zealand is to "communicate Christ's Gospel of love, mercy and justice in both word and deed". Recognising the world would be a better place if this mission was integrated across society, we make a deep commitment to this goal.'



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